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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

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G-7 summit resolves 'land-for-peace' basis for Middle East settlement

LYON, France (R) — World powers, reacting to the election of an Israeli government opposed to handing back more captured Arab territory, said on Saturday that "land-for-peace" remained the basis for a Middle East settlement.

In a statement adopted at their annual summit, the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial democracies and Russia called for a revival of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations as soon as possible.

But U.S. President Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Arab states and the outside world should give new hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu some time to establish his policies.

"A little time needs to pass, and we hope that no one, including those of us who are third parties, will say or do anything that will make the peace process more difficult down the road," Mr. Clinton told a news conference.

He said the summit leaders agreed that Israel should keep to the commitments it has made so far in the peace process.

Noting that security had played a major part in Mr. Netanyahu's election, the leaders said: "We are convinced that the security of all people of the region can eventually be achieved only through comprehensive, equitable and lasting peace."

On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher caused disquiet

in the Arab World by saying the principle which Arabs see as the bedrock of peace talks with Israel was a general guideline that had to be adapted to reality.

"At a time when the Middle East peace process requires a renewed impetus, we urge all the parties to fulfil their obligations, including agreements already signed, and to continue their efforts in favour of a comprehensive peace on the basis of the Madrid process, the principle of land-for-peace and other principles enshrined in the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions," the eight-power statement said.

The United States, Canada, France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia hailed what they called enormous achievements in Middle East peace, citing the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreements, the Israel-Jordan treaty and negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov told reporters the aim was to preserve what had been achieved so far, and there was little point in new initiatives before the U.S. presidential election in November.

"It would be counter-productive before the elections," he said. "We have reached a crucial point in this process. We must concentrate on keeping everything that has been achieved."

Mr. Clinton praised Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Nat-



JAPAN'S HASHIMOTO USHERS PRESIDENT CHIRAC TO TAKE PATH: Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (left) ushers French President Jacques Chirac to take the lead to take a path between two bushes as other G-7 leaders follow during a family photo opportunity Saturday before heading for lunch. G-7 leaders have been attending a three-day summit in Lyon ending today. Left to right: Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major and European Commission President Jacques Santer (partially hidden) (Reuters photo)

ional Authority (PNA) for the way it was providing law and order and running daily life in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank and said economic aid to the Palestinians was a way of underpinning peace.

The statement urged the Palestinian authority to promote the development of democratic institutions, the rule of law, open adminis-

tration, and respect for human rights.

While recognising Israel's security needs, it sought a complete lifting of the closure of the Palestinian territories, imposed after a wave of suicide bombings in February and March.

"We believe that terrorist threats will also be curbed by the elimination of isola-

tion and poverty, especially in the Palestinian territories, by the progressive restoration of confidence and by the successful outcome of the peace negotiations," the statement said.

However, it was less specific on Palestinian rights than a European Union statement last weekend which enshrined the "right to self-determination, with

all that it implies" — a step short of endorsing Mr. Arafat's call for a Palestinian state.

It also omitted any mention of Israeli plans to expand Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land. The eight powers said they trusted the Arab League would soon end its increasingly ineffective boycott of Israel.

Kabariti receives Syrian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Saturday received at his office Syrian Charge d'Affaires Wahib Jaber and discussed with him Jordanian-Syrian relations in the light of the meetings His Majesty King Hussein held with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during the Arab summit conference in Cairo last week.

An informed source told the Jordan Times that through meetings such as yesterday's and other means Mr. Kabariti was seeking to build on the rapprochement reached between King Hussein and President Assad at the summit.

"Jordan is telling the Syr-

ians that it was open for high level meetings to discuss all issues including the file on terrorism that the King presented to Presidents Assad and Hosni Mubarak during the summit," an informed source said.

"The message (that Mr. Kabariti is conveying to the Syrian leadership) is that Jordan is ready for cooperation and coordination to advance the peace process," the source added.

"But the prime minister is also pointing out to the Syrians that cooperation is a two-way street and that solidarity should be built on an equitable basis that take into consideration both countries' interests."

Ekeus asks Turkey to inform U.N. on exports to Iraq

ANKARA, Turkey (Agencies) — The chief U.N. arms monitor said Saturday that he asked Turkey to notify the United Nations about any materials exported to Iraq under an aid-for-oil deal.

"There are items which can be very dangerous in the hands of a reckless government," Rolf Ekeus told reporters. "If we are just informed, we can control that they were not misused."

Under an agreement reached last month by Iraq and the United Nations, Iraq is allowed to buy food and medicine with petroleum sales of \$2 billion to ease the effects of sanctions for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

An Iraqi-Turkish pipeline is being reopened under the agreement and goods are expected to flow from Turkey to Iraq.

"Medicine is harmless but can also be used in producing biological weapons," Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Ekeus said he also discussed with Turkish officials Iraq's compliance with the weapons destruction programme.

He said the most recent crisis, refusal of access to government ministries and sensitive military bases by monitors, appears to be solved.

"Now I am optimistic, but we still suspect Iraq is hiding a small amount, but highly significant, set of weapons," Mr. Ekeus said, repeating earlier assessments.

Acceptance of the distribution plan, given to United Nations officials and obtained by Reuters, is a key requirement before the May 20 oil-for-food accord can be implemented.

Under this agreement, Baghdad can sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in order to buy emergency supplies for civilians suffering from six years of U.N. trade sanctions.

A U.S. official said, "We hear that it's got problems" and "we obviously would not want to see non-humanitarian goods exported." But he added, "There is no reason to think there are any showstoppers."

Iraqi envoy, Abdul Amir Al Anbari, who negotiated the oil-for-food deal, said he expected a positive response to Baghdad's plan, numbering hundreds

of pages, and that it was up to Iraq to determine how it would spend its money.

"No one is going to tell us that, 'No, you better have butter rather than margarine,'" he said.

The plan calls for the allocation of \$875 million for food costs out of a total \$1.35 billion expected for humanitarian relief from the oil sales over six months. About 30 per cent of the \$2 billion in revenues is earmarked for Gulf war reparations to Kuwait and for some U.N. costs in Iraq.

The \$530 million for non-food needs are broken down into 13 categories, including \$210 million for medicine and supplies. Smaller amounts are set aside for nutrition, water and sanitation, electricity, agriculture, education and oil production equipment.

However, within the plan, there are provisions drawn up by Iraq that are expected to cause some problems, although they are tied to humanitarian aid.

Under the agriculture section, Iraq wants to purchase spare parts for pesticide spraying helicopters for plant protection. In the next paragraph, the plan calls for a minimum level of spare parts for tractors, combine harvesters and irrigation pumps.

"The number of requested new machinery and pumps represents 25 per cent of the actual need in regard to the irrigation pumps, while the requested number of tractors represents only 1/30 of the actual need for heavy tractors," Iraq says in the plan.

In the medicine and supplies section, requests are made for spare parts to maintain medical equipment and electro-mechanical services, as well as the purchasing of 100 ambulances to provide emergency care in Baghdad.

Mr. Anbari noted that another requirement before the deal could be implemented were regulations on how the oil would be purchased and how the food would be bought. These procedures, being prepared by a Security Council committee, are delayed.

Mr. Anbari said the committee was being stymied by "one or two members" with their own agenda, an apparent reference to the United States and Britain who have the toughest positions.

Likud sends mixed signals on Netanyahu-Arafat meeting

JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's ruling Likud is sending mixed signals on the closely watched possibility of a meeting between hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Palestinians keenly desire such a meeting, seen as a key test of the policy intentions of the new prime minister, who has been guarded about details of his position on Arab-Israeli peace moves. Influential Likud lawmaker Uzi Landau said he believed Mr. Netanyahu — elected a month ago on a promise to go slow on peace talks with the Arabs — would maintain his resistance to meeting Mr. Arafat despite three years of high-profile discussions with Mr. Arafat by the heads of the previous Labour government.

But Mr. Netanyahu, interviewed by Germany's Focus magazine, left wide-open the chance of a face-to-face encounter with Arafat.

"We are thinking of meeting with the Palestinian leadership, at all levels — with Mr. Arafat's representatives and with him."

Speculation on an Arafat-Netanyahu meeting grew over the weekend, after Israeli officials confirmed that Mr. Netanyahu adviser Mr. Dore Gold had secretly met Mr. Arafat, whom Likud has long branded a "terrorist" bent on destroying the Jewish state. Israel's Channel Twom Television said Mr.

Arafat's Palestinian self-rule authority was discussing a possible three-way summit in the next few days in Cairo between the leaders of Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians.

Palestinian politicians said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu would have to meet before progress could be made on the many unresolved issues surrounding the Israeli-PLO peace deal.

"It's not enough to send a messenger with a message," Palestinian Minister Saeb Erekat told reporters in Gaza.

Mr. Landau, incoming head of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee and a prominent Likud hawk, said on Saturday he would be very surprised if the two leaders met.

He said many Israelis are opposed to Mr. Netanyahu meeting Mr. Arafat, whom he described as "a man whose hands are drenched with the blood of many of our children."

However, Mr. Netanyahu told Focus magazine "I'll overcome any personal difficulties (in meeting Arafat) I'm not here to give free rein to my personal feelings. I'm here to act in the interests of the Israeli people."

Mr. Netanyahu spokesman Mr. Shal Bazak, responding to the report of a proposal for a three-way summit in Cairo, said:

"This was not discussed during the meeting (between Arafat and adviser Gold), and we

have not heard of this from any other source."

Palestinian officials were unavailable for comment.

Slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a tough ex-general who once waged war on guerrillas of Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation, stunned Israelis in 1993 by reluctantly taking Mr. Arafat's proffered hand during a White House signing ceremony for landmark Israeli-PLO peace accord.

Mr. Rabin and his successor Mr. Shimon Peres were the first Israeli leaders to meet former arch-enemy Arafat.

Mr. Netanyahu has provoked Arab anger by rejecting Peres' U.S.-endorsed formula of trading captured land for peace.

He told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday he intended to expand dialogue with Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority, but was guarded on details.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is due to visit U.S. President Bill Clinton on July 9, can ill afford to antagonise Washington, which supplies Israel with \$3 billion in annual aid.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo predicted Mr. Netanyahu would make gestures to Mr. Clinton "in the area of the peace process."

Mr. Milo, a Likud moderate, did not specify the gestures. But an Arafat-Netanyahu meeting is high on the U.S. peace agenda.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday receives JPA President Suleiman Qudrah and JPA board members to discuss the government's proposed journalists association's law (Petra photo)

Government, journalists near agreement on draft legislation

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Government and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) inched closer yesterday to resolving a long-standing dispute over a draft legislation that would govern the work of the JPA, government and JPA sources said.

The sources said Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti agreed during a meeting with JPA president and council to review the draft law in light with the association's demands and "study proposals" presented by the JPA earlier.

"It was a very positive meeting," said minister of information, Marwan Muasher. "The Govern-

ment has agreed to review the law in a way that would take into account the JPA's demands," he told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Muasher, who had resisted a JPA pressure to withdraw the draft legislation, declined to unveil details of Saturday's meeting saying he preferred the JPA to issue a statement on it.

However, Dr. Muasher stressed that the dialogue on the draft law "should be concluded within the next week" so that the government "can submit it to Parliament on time."

JPA President Suleiman Qudrah said there had been an "initial agreement" on many controversial issues in the draft law including the definition of who qualifies as a "journalist" and the question of

"mandatory membership."

"We have agreed that membership in the association should be mandatory to all journalists and we have reached initial agreements concerning other issues," Mr. Qudrah told the Jordan Times without elaboration.

Informed sources, however said the association "has agreed to ease restrictions on membership in return for mandatory membership."

It is the second such meeting between the prime minister and the JPA board. A meeting between the two sides last month produced an understanding "on continuing the dialogue between the two sides aimed at joint

(Continued on page 3)

هناك حاجة للإصلاح

Survivor says Khobar blast came without warning

LANDSTUHL, Germany (AP) — One wounded survivor of the truck bomb that exploded at a U.S. Air Force housing compound in Saudi Arabia said he didn't hear a thing. There was just a flash.

"Like they say, you never hear the bullet when it hits you," said Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Craven, who was among 43 injured air force men and women who arrived at the main U.S. military hospital in Europe for treatment Friday.

Wearing hospital pajamas, Sgt. Craven appeared tired as he sat in a wheelchair talking to reporters. His face crisscrossed with healing cuts. More serious cuts in his legs prevented him from walking.

The 33-year-old resident of Milan, Indiana said he was looking out over the city from inside his room when the scene below was engulfed by flames. Sgt. Craven said he didn't know what had hit him.

"It was just immediate pain. Then it sounded like standing behind an F-15. Just the thrust of the explosion. It was over before we even knew what was happening."

The 43 injured men and women arrived at Ramstein Air Base in southwest Germany before dawn Friday, exhausted and "a little bit shocked." Some were carried off the planes on stretchers, others were in wheelchairs.

"They're understandably a little bit shocked ... but their spirits are pretty good," said Army Col. Kevin C. Kiley.

Two of the injured underwent surgery Friday morning at the U.S. military's Landstuhl regional medical center. All 43 were reported



GIANT CRATER LEFT BEHIND BY SAUDI BOMB BLAST: Journalists and security personnel following U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry's visit to Dhahran Saturday, stand at the edge of a massive crater left by a bomb that exploded outside one of the apartment buildings housing U.S. military personnel. Nineteen American servicemen died, and hundreds of others were injured when a fuel truck containing a bomb exploded on June 25 (Reuters photo)

in stable condition, and 10 or 12 were expected to be released in the next couple of days.

As in Sgt. Craven's case, most of the injuries treated at Landstuhl — ranging from cuts to internal injuries — were caused by flying glass and debris, said Air Force Lt. Col. Paul F. Montany. "The worst ones

were facing the windows," he said.

That's where Chief Master Sgt. Francis Klosiewski found himself when the blast went off some 100 metres away.

"I saw the window coming out of the frame. I tried to spin around but couldn't do it," said Sgt. Klosiewski, 45, of Groton, Connecticut.

His right arm heavily bandaged, Sgt. Klosiewski suffered cut muscles and tendons as well as facial cuts.

"I heard a roar like a train coming down the tracks, except a lot louder," Sgt. Klosiewski recalled.

"Things were shaking and suddenly the wall exploded in on me. It threw me up against the wall and the

next thing I knew I was picking myself up off the floor."

Sgt. Klosiewski, on his third tour in Saudi Arabia, was getting coffee to get him through some paperwork before his scheduled return to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, and his wife and two children, on Thursday.

No one else in his housing unit was hurt, but his unit, the 58th Fighter Squadron, suffered 12 deaths, Sgt. Klosiewski said. In all, 19 Americans were killed in Tuesday's attack.

"I've talked to my commander about this," Sgt. Klosiewski said. "You've got to put these things behind you and go on."

Rafsanjani receives message from Assad

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani received a message Saturday from Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad, delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al Sharaa, the official IRNA agency said.

The agency, which gave no details about the message, said Mr. Rafsanjani hailed Syria as a "frontline Muslim state which acts as a line of defence vis-a-vis the state terrorism and threats of the Zionist entity against regional Muslim countries."

It added that Mr. Sharaa, who arrived in Tehran on Saturday for talks with Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati about the situation in the region, "expressed his satisfaction over the two countries' growing relations."

IRNA said Mr. Sharaa predicted Damascus cooperation "will help Muslims to further strengthen their stand and help restore peace and real security in the region."

The Syrian minister's visit followed an appeal to Tehran on Saturday by the leaders of the Group of Seven industrial nations and Russia at their summit meeting in Lyons, France, to stop supporting terrorist groups threatening the Middle East peace process.

Both Iran and Syria are on the U.S. government's blacklist of countries deemed to be supporting terrorism.

Italy to pursue Achille Lauro killer

ROME (AP) — Italy has promised to pursue the Palestinian convicted of masterminding the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking that left an American passenger dead, the victim's daughter said Saturday. Mohammed Abbas, 48, surfaced in Gaza last April. He had been convicted in absentia and sentenced to life in prison in Italy for the cruise ship hijacking.

"The Italian authorities assured us they are working with Interpol to search for him and would do all they can when they find him to extradite him and make sure he serves his sentence," said Ilsa Klinghoffer of New York City, whose father Leon Klinghoffer was shot aboard the ship.

Hizbollah guerrillas attack South Lebanon Army positions

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Hizbollah guerrillas attacked Israeli-backed militiamen with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades Saturday, provoking Israeli air and artillery retaliation. Security sources reported casualties on both sides.

They said one militiaman of the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army (SLA) was wounded in the day-break clashes in the eastern sector of an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon. Israeli attack helicopters strafed retreating guerrillas after the hit-and-run assaults and an undetermined number of guerrillas were wounded, the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or party of God, claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying in a com-

muniqué that guerrillas overran a South Lebanon army barracks at Kawkaba inside the occupied enclave.

"All enemy fortified positions in Kawkaba were destroyed, an armored personnel carrier gutted and up to 15 enemy elements were either killed or wounded in the operation," said the communiqué released in Rashaya, a town just outside the occupied enclave.

The gunships scrambled into action as the guerrillas were withdrawing from the Kawkaba area into the western Bekaa region under a sustained barrage of artillery and tank fire from Israeli and SLA positions in the foothills of Mount Hermon, the sources said.

The bombardment targeted pine forests and olive groves surrounding the Shiite villages of Ein El

Tineh, Maydoun and Zaghleh. At least 150 shells blasted the targets, the sources added.

Hizbollah is fighting to expel Israeli occupation forces from the 1,100-square-kilometre enclave, which Israel established in 1985 as a "security zone" to guard against cross-border guerrilla forays. The zone has a predominantly Shiite population of 200,000.

In April, Hizbollah's Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel triggered off a 16-day Israeli bombing blitz in which 165 people were killed, most of them Lebanese civilians.

The onslaught was halted by a U.S.-brokered ceasefire on April 27. It prohibited attacks on civilian targets on both sides without precluding military confrontations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mahmoud Abbas arrives in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — Senior Palestinian official Mahmoud Abbas has arrived in the Gulf Arab state of Bahrain for talks with officials on the stalled Middle East peace process, the Gulf News Agency reported. The official agency said on Friday that Mr. Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, would also address a seminar on Saturday on Middle East peace after the election of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who opposes swapping occupied Arab land for peace.

Egypt politician struck by curse

CAIRO (AFP) — The head of an Egyptian opposition party said he was the victim of a curse cast by one of his political enemies which made him tremble every time he entered his office, the press reported Saturday. The leader of the pro-Islamist Ahrar Party Mustapha Murad Kamel first confided to the chief of the opposition Umma Party Ahmad Al Sabahi about the curse, the government weekly Akhbar Al Youm said. Mr. Kamel told Mr. Sabahi that every time he entered his office at the Consultative Council, the upper house of Egypt's parliament, he would tremble, his breath would become short and his beard would stand on end, the paper said. Mr. Sabahi, who has authored several books on genies and the occult, diagnosed that someone had planted a cursed talisman in Mr. Kamel's office and he promised to his associate to locate it. Mr. Sabahi produced a pendulum which immediately began to vibrate and ultimately pinpointed the talisman — a clump of rags inside an envelope — hidden in a drawer of Mr. Kamel's desk. Mr. Kamel said it had no doubt been put there by one of his enemies, adding that "since sabahi neutralised the talisman I feel fine", according to the paper.

Israeli crime boss widow gunned down

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The widow of a slain Israeli crime boss has been shot and killed in front of her 11-year-old son outside the family home in what police described as an ongoing gang war. Shoshana Aslan, 42, was shot late Thursday by a masked gunman as she drove up to her house in a Tel Aviv suburb, police said. A suspect has been arrested but no further details were available. Yehzekel Aslan, who police say was a leading crime figure notably involved in gambling, was shot and killed in 1993. Since his killing, Shoshana Aslan took over his activities, police said. She is the sixth major Israeli crime figure murdered in the past three years in what police say is a war between rival gangs.

Mechanic sets tardy apprentice alight

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian mechanic soaked his 9-year-old apprentice with petrol and set him alight because he took too long to fetch a packet of cigarettes, official newspapers reported on Friday. Al Akhbar, and Al Gomhuria dailies said Hisham Ramadan was rushed to hospital with severe burns after Rifaat Mohammed Hariri, who owns a car workshop in the village of Bilqas, set him on fire. Police have arrested Mr. Hariri. Earlier this month, another mechanic pumped his 10-year-old apprentice full of air until his intestines burst to punish him for stupidity.

AUB to help build university in Sharjah

BEIRUT (R) — The American University of Beirut (AUB) said on Thursday that it would contribute expertise to help build a new American university in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. AUB said in a statement that its New York-based President Robert Haddad signed an agreement with the ruler of Sharjah Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, to help build the new university that will open in September 1997. "AUB will extend the necessary technical advice to establish all the programmes of the new university in addition to recommending the choice of teaching and administrative staff," it added. The new university, with a capacity of 2,000 students, will include four faculties: Arts and science, commerce and business administration, engineering and technology, and experimental arts, AUB said. The AUB, founded in 1866, is one of the most prestigious higher learning institutions in the Middle East.

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Cartoon — The Mask
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Road
16:00 Mac and Muley
16:30 The Paul Mc Kenna Show
17:00 News Flash
17:42 Ordy
17:15 La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 Que Le Diable Gagne
18:00 Envoye Special
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Sports et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Varieties
20:00 European
Championship '96 — Closing Ceremony
20:45 Short Documentary
21:10 Black's Magic
22:00 News in English
22:25 Counterstrike
23:15 Short Story Cinema
23:50 Nelson's Column

PRAYER TIMES

03:53 Fajr
05:28 (Sunrise) Duha
12:39 Dhur
16:19 'Asr
19:50 Maghreb
21:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757. Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366 Anglican Church Tel. 652826. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Armenian International Church Tel. 652526 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932. Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295 English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.	Amman 18/30 Aqaba 23/37 Deserts 16/35 Jordan Valley 22/37 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent. Aqaba 39 per cent.	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 898140 Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas 759155 Dr. Fakher Bubeisi 663412 Mazen Nballi 830435 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nairokh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 Najib pharmacy 847652 IRBID: Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh 250080 Al Quds pharmacy (—) ZARQA: Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417 EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111	Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 617101 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Public Security Dept. 630321 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality Complaints 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 J. Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power Co. 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200	Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3 Al-Bashir 775111/26 Army, Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50 Amal Hospital 674155 The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700) ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 09:15 Dharan (add) (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 10:05 Riyadh (RJ) 10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:20 Beirut (RJ) 10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:50 New York (RJ) 16:50 Madrid (RJ) 16:55 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ) 18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ) 18:50 London (RJ) 19:15 Athens (RJ) 19:25 Istanbul (RJ) 19:45 Paris, Vienna (RJ) 20:30 Tunis (RJ) 22:40 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ) 22:35 Rome (RJ) 01:10 Bahrain (add) (RJ) 04:25 Bahrain (add) (RJ) 07:30 Sanaa (add) (RJ) Other Flights 06:30 Tel Aviv (LY) 11:00 Sanaa (LY) 12:00 Doha (Q7) 13:40 Bahrain (GF) 15:05 Moscow (SU) 16:30 Dubai (EK) 20:35 Cairo (MS)	21:25 Cairo (MS) 02:30 Amsterdam (KL) 04:00 Athens (OA) 06:00 Istanbul (TK) Royal Wings (RW) Flights 10:00 Amman (arriving at Marka Airport from QAIA) (RW) 20:30 Aqaba (RW) HILAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman 800 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 500 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Amman 500 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Appicot 700/500 Apple 700/500 Banana 600/600 Banana (Mukammal) 520/520 Banana (imported) 780/550 Cabbage 70/50 Carrot 150/90 Cauliflower 280/170 Cucumber (large) 90/60 Cucumber (small) 140/90 Eggplant 200/140 Garlic 650/400 Lemon 770/500 Marrow (large) 150/100 Marrow (small) 220/150 Mulukhiyah 150/90 Onion (dry) 130/80 Okra 950/600 Orange 400/300 Pea 470/500 Peach 600/400 Pepper (hot) 420/320
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Senior Palestinian official Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Bahrain for a visit to the Gulf Arab state of Bahrain. The news agency reported. The official also addressed a seminar on Saturday after the election of Yasser Arafat as leader of the PLO.

Man struck by curse

The head of an Egyptian opposition group, a victim of a curse cast by one of his enemies, the press reported Saturday. The group's leader, the opposition leader, said that he had been struck by a curse. He said that he had been struck by a curse. He said that he had been struck by a curse.

Widow gunned down

The widow of a slain Israeli soldier was killed in front of her 11-year-old son in a shooting in the town of Shoshana. The police said that the widow was killed. The police said that the widow was killed.

Hardy apprentice alight

An Egyptian mechanic soaked his car with petrol and set it alight. The police said that the mechanic was arrested. The police said that the mechanic was arrested.

University in Sharjah

American University of Beirut said that it would contribute to the American university in Sharjah. The university said that it would contribute to the American university in Sharjah.

Home News



Minister of Education Munther Masri Saturday meets with the head of the Paris-based Institute du Monde Arabe Camille Cabana and discussed cooperation between Jordan and France in cultural affairs (Petra photo)

King Hussein receives message from French president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from the French president, Jacques Chirac, through the French ambassador to Amman, Bernard Bado. The king's office said that the message was received. The king's office said that the message was received.

Whdat 'crime of honour' case sentence reduced

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Saturday sentenced a 30-year-old man to one year in prison after being found guilty of killing his sister in a crime of honour in the Whdat area last January. The court said that the man was found guilty of killing his sister in a crime of honour in the Whdat area last January.

Queen Noor visits Sharifa Haya Centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday visited the Sharifa Haya Abdullah Development Centre and was briefed on the expansion of its activities, including the centre's marketable tourist items designed and produced by the Aqaba Women's Centre. The Sharifa Haya Centre, founded in 1986 by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Women-in-Development Programme, offers a range of cultural, educational and social services to young women including vocational training courses. Its latest project is the Aqaba Women's Centre that opened this year and, which, according to the project director, Faizeh Showkani, "creates income-generating jobs for women through the tourism industry in Aqaba."

Kabariti requests study on drug problem

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday visited the Ministry of Social Development and asked its staff to compile a detailed study on the narcotics problem in Jordan so that the government can take further action to deal with this issue. Calling on the ministry to coordinate efforts with other concerned departments and non-governmental organisations to combat the drug problem, Mr. Kabariti said that the government needs to realise the real volume of this problem and thus seeks data to be presented to a specialised symposium as soon as possible to discuss ways to deal with it. The Public Security Department (PSD) last week issued a statement warning that the number of cases and people involved in drug trafficking operations was on the increase. It urged the concerned parties and the society as a whole to double their efforts to deal with traffickers and the problems of drug abuse. In its statement marking "World Narcotics Day," the PSD said in 1995 it handled 341 cases involving Jordanian and non-Jordanian citizens suspected of smuggling 3,131 kilograms of hashish, 11.5 kilograms of heroin, 768 grammes of marijuana, 1.6 million Captagon pills, 16 grammes of cocaine and 79.5 grammes of opium as well as 98 saplings of cannabis. During the meeting with Minister of Social Development Hammad Abu Jamous Saturday, the Prime Minister reviewed measures for assisting the handicapped and rehabilitating with juvenile delinquents. Mr. Kabariti listened to Mr. Abu Jamous review ministry plans dealing with the problems of poverty and unemployment through income-generating projects in cooperation with other Jordanian organisations.

RJ to start flights to Bombay, shut offices in Australia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Banking on the success of its Asian and Far East routes, Royal Jordanian (RJ) plans to operate two weekly flights between Amman and Bombay, India this November. RJ Vice President of Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri announced Saturday. Dr. Sabri said that RJ was trying to promote the marketing of Jordan's archaeological and cultural attractions and has so far achieved considerable success in this area. Addressing the opening session of RJ's annual Middle East and North Africa General Sales meeting at the Forte Grand Hotel, Dr. Sabri said the airline also plans to cut expenses while improving services to passengers. Towards that end, he said, RJ has decided to close its offices in Australia and instead appoint general sales agents there as well as in Malta and northern Italy to promote the airline and tourism to Jordan. Dr. Sabri said that starting September, RJ will operate one weekly flight between Amman and Milan, Italy. Referring to the Marketing and Sales Department, he said that the board of directors has decided to reorganise it by dividing its operations into four sections: passengers sales and marketing, air freight services marketing, international affairs, and energy management. The meeting was opened by RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi who said that RJ, like all other airlines in the region, has been affected by regional political developments. Mr. Dahabi said that in 1996 the positive effect of the peace process is expected to result in a boom in the region's airline industry and increase RJ's operations. He said that in a bid to promote its services, RJ has this year disposed of its Boeing 727 aircraft and replaced them with Airbus aircraft which should help RJ cope with increasing competition in the aviation industry as they consume less fuel and are operated by a two-person crew. Mr. Dahabi said he hopes the government will help RJ further improve its financial situation by reducing its estimated JD 10 million debt to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. At the meeting 30 directors of sales offices in the Middle East and North Africa presented reports in which they reviewed the major problems faced in their work and their plans for the remainder of 1996.

Bayaat Al Imam defence rests case; witnesses testify to signs of 'torture'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Defence attorneys in the case of 13 people, some accused of plotting subversive activities, Saturday rested their case after hearing their final witnesses testify that some of the defendants had been tortured under detention. The defence team is trying to prove that their clients were subjected to torture and that their testimonies were extracted under duress. During the court session, presiding Judge Yousef Faouri announced that the court was supplied with information showing when the defendants were apprehended and when they were transferred to the State Security Court prosecution. According to Mazen Ershaidat, one of nine attorneys defending the suspects, the information on the times of arrest and transfer to the security court proved that their clients were detained for a long time by the security forces. "The security forces' reply proves that most of our clients were detained for more than six months in prison before being questioned by the State Security prosecutor," Mr. Ershaidat told the Jordan Times. The 13 men, six of them released on bail, are known by their affiliated name Bayaat Al Imam (pledge of the allegiance to the leader). They were arrested before actually carrying out any attacks. The group followers believe only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and do not attend mosque prayers or school because they reject the entire system. The court tribunal last month was presented with a file by the prosecution implicating the defendants in plotting to carry out extremist attacks, illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials, and distributing pamphlets slanderous to His Majesty King Hussein. The court tribunal set July 16 and 17 to hear the prosecution and the defence's closing arguments.

Canadians consider investment in Jordan

OTTAWA (Petra) — As a direct result of HRH Crown Prince Hassan's recent visit to Canada, the Canadian private sector is considering implementing three projects in the Kingdom in cooperation with Jordanian businesses, according to Salim Hirsh, an Arab-Canadian businessman and head of the Arab Businessmen's Organisation in Ottawa. Mr. Hirsh said that the projects, which will be sponsored by Arab-Canadians, include the establishment of a factory to produce power generators at a cost of \$30 million, a bakery factory and a contracting company specialising in constructing low-cost buildings. He said Arab-Canadians believe they should help Jordan benefit from high level Canadian technology in order to bolster ties between the two countries. Another Arab-Canadian businessman, Shawqi Fah, said Arab-Canadian businessmen are in contact with Jordanian engineers to explore setting up a joint Jordanian-Canadian corporation that would dedicate its efforts to protecting the environment by training Jordanian engineers in this respect. Encouraged by Prince Hassan's visit to Canada, Arab and Jordanian Canadians are now forming a Jordanian-Canadian Friendship Society which will first dedicate its efforts to promoting economic and trade ties between the two countries and later expand into cultural relations, according to Mr. Fah. Taher Farukh, another Arab-Canadian businessman, said some of his colleagues are planning to establish a major tourist project in Jordan in cooperation with five Canadian companies. He said the project, estimated to cost \$20 million, is to be established in the Jordanian desert. Arab-Canadian sources said delegations from the Arab group in Canada are planning visits to Jordan, noting that Prince Hassan's visit marked a new era in Canadian-Jordanian relations and helped build new bridges of mutual cooperation in cultural and economic fields.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUELIS SEVENTH FESTIVAL

Concert by Samira Al Asad and Rasha Al Sarhan at 7:00 p.m.

City (Arabia) entitled "Freedom" at Beit Al Fuhels at 10:00 a.m.

Seminar (Arabia) entitled "Contemporary Intellectual and Political" with the participation of Karim Al-Muraw and Rasha Ghazal at 6:30 p.m.

Concert of Jordanian songs by Amman Music Club at Beit Al Fuhels at 8:15 p.m.

Exhibition on Arab cities Jordanian figures, Arab dress, books, hand-made products, and others.

EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Dutch artist Marion Verbeeten and the "Impressions of Jordan" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until June 30.

Works by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Fatah, Jafar Wehbeh, until June 30.

Abstract (plastic) art by Arab women artists at Beit Al Fuhels Art Gallery, Gardens street, Tel 687596, until July 2.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharalbeh presents a graduate with her diploma yesterday during commencement exercises. Bachelors degrees were presented to 231 students from the Faculty of Agriculture, 157 from nursing, and 131 from physical education. In addition 743 students received their post graduate degrees and diplomas: 29 of those were awarded doctorate degrees in different specialisations.

Government, journalists near agreement on draft legislation

(Continued from page 1)

drafting of the legislation." The Ministry of Information and the association have been at loggerheads over the draft law, which the JPA board says it has not been consulted on. The JPA was also opposed to the definition of the "journalist" in the draft law saying it would open the door wide open for non-journalists to join the association whose membership has been strictly controlled. The deal that was reached yesterday, though not final, comes five days before the next elections of the association takes place. While some journalists expressed the opinion that the understanding was connected with the elections, JPA officials maintained that there was little connection between them. "Full agreement on the content of the law had better be left to the new president and council," on one hand and the government on the other," said a JPA official. "It is only logical that we wait until after the elections are held before we agree on a new package for the coming stage," he told The Jordan Times.

Save water! Every drop counts...

With deepest sympathy Abeda Namat wishes to send her condolences to every member of the American Embassy in Amman and to extend her sympathy to the families and friends of the victims of the terrible terrorist act that took place in Al-Khubar, Saudi Arabia.

Russian deputy premier says victory is in bag for Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov said Saturday that President Boris Yeltsin, who is taking a break from the campaign trail to rest his voice, is sure to win Wednesday's election.

Mr. Lobov, a long-time ally of Mr. Yeltsin, told reporters in the southern Siberian city of Barnaul that the Kremlin leader was attracting broad support from other political groups because of his commitment to a market economy.

Asked if he believed Mr. Yeltsin, 65, would beat Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov in the crucial runoff vote, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Lobov as saying: "undoubtedly."

"There must be victory," he said. "People understand the ruinous consequences of any attempt to return to the past."

Mr. Yeltsin aides worked overtime Friday to allay fears over the president's health after he dropped from the public eye. Last year, the white-haired leader suffered two heart attacks.

Aide Viktor Ilyushin said Mr. Yeltsin, who has no public engagements scheduled for Saturday, had merely lost his voice after numerous interviews and campaign appearances.

"We hope that the rest which the president will have now will help him recuperate his forces fully," Mr. Ilyushin said.

In the French city of Lyon, U.S. President Bill Clinton, attending a meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, said he believed Mr. Yeltsin was in good health.

Asked during a morning stroll whether he had spoken to Mr. Yeltsin, Mr.



President Boris Yeltsin smiles as his daughter Tatyana talks to him after a meeting with his election campaign staff in a residence outside Moscow. In the background is Georgy Satarov, Mr. Yeltsin's aide. The president's spokesman said Mr. Yeltsin has lost his voice and would attend no public events until at least Sunday (Reuters photo)

Clinton replied, "Nope, but I think he's fine."

Mr. Lobov said virtually all of the candidates defeated in the June 16 first round poll had now lined up behind Mr. Yeltsin.

"The programmes of many candidates are very similar. All favour a market economy, but the most far-reaching programme is that worked out by the current president," he added.

Mr. Lobov was appointed first deputy premier on June 18 after Mr. Yeltsin replaced him as secretary of Russia's

powerful Security Council with Alexander Lebed, the tough-talking reserve general who finished a strong third in the first round election.

Mr. Yeltsin is now riding high in opinion polls and looks likely to win the runoff if more than 60 per cent of eligible voters take part. First round turnout was about 70 per cent.

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov said security was being stepped up to prevent possible acts of terrorism. A bus blast in the north

Caucasus Friday killed five people.

"We have put patrol and security services as well as non-departmental security units throughout the country on heightened alert," Mr. Kulikov said in remarks broadcast on Russian Television.

"We will take firm measures to prevent any criminal activity."

In the Russian Far East, TASS said plans to falsify the results of the runoff vote had been unearthed by local electoral commission workers.

It said some ballot papers which arrived from the printers had already been completed with marks showing support for Mr. Zyuganov or for "none of the above."

The extent of the alleged fraud was not clear and there was no independent confirmation of the report immediately available.

Mr. Yeltsin's campaign has been backed by an unabashedly biased Russian media. Blanket television coverage has focused on the risk of a Communist return to power leading to Soviet-style repression and economic decline.

Mr. Zyuganov, who trailed Mr. Yeltsin by only three points in the first round, when eight other candidates were eliminated, has accused the Kremlin of "information terror."

The Communist leader has also seized on Mr. Yeltsin's recent slackening campaign effort to highlight health concerns. "At such an age, his health cannot be good," Mr. Zyuganov said.

Mr. Zyuganov said Mr. Yeltsin was running a scare campaign and keeping him off the air.



A group of heavily-armed men carry high-powered rifles as they break in on mourners gathered to mark the first anniversary of a peasant massacre in the western Mexican state of Guerrero Friday. The rebels said they were a newly formed guerrilla group and called for the overthrow of Mexico's government (Reuters photo)

Mexico sends army after new armed group emerges

MEXICO CITY (R) — A band of masked men brandishing AK-47 rifles interrupted mourners remembering a peasant massacre in southwestern Mexico Friday, saying they had formed a new armed group to fight the government.

About 70 men wearing olive green uniforms appeared suddenly from the mountains in Guerrero state, fired 17 shots into the air and laid a wreath at the spot where police killed 17 peasants a year ago today, radio station Radio Red said.

"They suddenly came down from the mountains... Everyone was amazed," the radio's reporter on the spot said.

The government played down the importance of the event, saying the men were staging a publicity stunt and stressing that the event bore no resemblance whatsoever to the Zapatista armed uprising in Chiapas state in 1994.

But a joint statement from the attorney general's office and the Interior Ministry said army troops were hunting the band because they were carrying illegal weapons.

"Members of the 27th Military Zone are now proceeding to carry out the necessary inspections to apply the federal firearms and explosives law in the area mentioned," it said.

Contradicting the radio report, the official statement said the group numbered just 38.

The armed band appeared as around 5,000 mourners gathered at the Ford of Aguas Blancas in Guerrero.

about 210 kilometres southwest of Mexico City, to remember the peasants, whose slayings sparked a major human rights crisis for Mexico.

Their leader, who styled himself "Commander Ignacio" read a statement which was later sent to news organisations.

It called on Mexicans to rise up in arms against the "anti-popular, anti-democratic, demagogic and illegitimate" government of President Ernesto Zedillo.

"Moved by the unjust conditions of (our) life and work we want a democratic and revolutionary transformation of our homeland. We have created another instrument of struggle which we have called the Revolutionary Popular Army."

"These are the results of a determination to fight against the political demagoguery of the anti-popular government, that in defence of the financial elite and the interests of foreigners in Mexico, has refused to satisfy the people's cries for justice, liberty, democracy, which is why we have decided to conquer them with the force of reason and arms."

In a first reaction, a government spokesman said: "I wouldn't give this any importance."

Ezequiel Zuniga, mayor of the nearby town of Coyuca de Benitez for the ruling PRI party, dismissed the armed gang as "a well-known band of thieves" operating in the area, according to official news agency Notimex.

But political analysts in

Mexico City noted that the style of the group's manifesto appeared to be that of well-educated Marxist revolutionaries rather than illiterate peasants.

The armed men refused to give their names, saying only that their group consisted of 500 men, was from Guerrero and had no connection to the Zapatista guerrilla movement in the southern state of Chiapas.

A senior government official said his personal impression, based on sketchy initial reports, was that the group's appearance was "something totally different" to the Zapatista rebellion.

The Zapatistas took up arms and invaded several towns in Chiapas on New Year's Day 1994 to demand greater democracy and respect for Indian rights.

More than 140 people died in the first month of fighting in Chiapas but the Zapatistas subsequently agreed to a truce and are currently negotiating a peace treaty with the government.

Some Mexican news media have reported in past months that left-wing peasants were forming a guerrilla group in Guerrero, one of the country's poorest and most backward states, but the government has always denied this.

Guerrero was briefly home in the 1970s to a left-wing guerrilla movement led by Lucio Cabanas, which kidnapped wealthy locals and led a political rebellion from the mountains before being wiped out by the army.

Ancient tomb located using satellite imagery

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese scientists said Saturday they had discovered the base of a structure which might have been an ancient pyramid tomb in the Egyptian desert. A team of scientists from the Waseda and Tokai universities said they had launched a search project six years ago to locate a pyramid along the Nile River, by analysing images and data from Japanese, U.S. and Russian satellites. Team members said they had detected the presence of a previously undetected large solid object on a plateau at Saqqara, a town some 15 kilometres south of Cairo. In digging at the site in March and April, the team discovered the remains of what is probably a grave-yard — 50 metres long on an east-west axis and 17 metres long on a north-south axis — at a depth of some 60 centimetres (24 inches). Sakaji Yoshimura, an Egyptologist at Waseda University, said the scientists estimated the site to be some 3,500 years old, judging from the age of earthenware and other objects found there. One structure found at the site is thought to be a tomb chapel for a king's clan or a high officer, he said.

Children find ancient fossil treasure

CANBERRA (R) — Two Australian children sifting through rocks and dirt in Australia's outback have unearthed one of the world's most important fossil finds, showing amphibians lived here 330 million years ago, Australian fossil experts said. The find indicates Australia could be the place where fish first crawled out of the water and land-based life began more than 160 million years before the first dinosaurs. "Queensland University researcher Tim Hamley told Reuters. Leading British scientific journal, Nature, has this week published the findings of Queensland University zoologist Tony Thulhom, his colleague Mr. Hamley, and two other researchers. "The fossil find is significant because it shows that direct descendants of the current form of tetrapods — amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals — were distributed throughout the southern as well as the northern hemispheres," Mr. Hamley said. "Previously, the southern hemisphere 330 million years ago was thought to be too cold for amphibians to survive and most of these fossils were found in Scotland," he added. Mr. Hamley's son Angus, 13, and Thulhom's nine-year-old son Guy found the fossils of teeth and bones from amphibious animals in the northern state of Queensland last year. The four had travelled to the outback remote site after the son of a local cattle farmer sent them fossilised fish spines for analysis. The fossils come from an ancient time when Australia was part of a vast continent linked to India, Africa, Antarctica and South America.

Mrs. Clinton gets a rose named after her

LYON, France (R) — A French flower breeder Friday presented Hillary Clinton with a red rose named after the American first lady and renowned for its resilience. Mrs. Clinton, dogged by political troubles back home, was given the roses at a flower show arranged for the spouses of the Group of Seven leaders while their husbands talked politics at the annual G7 summit. The worries weighing on the first lady in the United States did not overshadow her visit to the central French city of Lyon, where the G7 spouses have been entertained out of the limelight.

U.N. Haiti mission runs for another 5 months

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council has decided to keep troops in Haiti for another five months but at the insistence of China whittled down the numbers for the force and gave it a new name.

At issue was China's anger at Haiti's diplomatic ties to Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province. Diplomats said relations improved between Beijing and Washington as well as lobbying from Latin American and many Third World countries persuaded Beijing to support the reduced mission.

The Council's resolution, adopted Friday, calls for 600 peacekeepers under a U.N. command. Another 700 troops from Canada, Bangladesh and Pakistan will be financed separately by Canada and the United States, the United Nations said.

In addition, the mission has 300 civilian police and about 300 civilians, who will stay in place. The new operation of 1,300 troops is a drop from the current complement of 1,900 soldiers, 700 of them Canadians paid for by Ottawa alone.

In February, during the last renewal, China threatened to veto the military force in Haiti unless its numbers were reduced, prompting Canada to rescue the mission by paying for its own troops. At that time the force was renewed for four months only after which it was supposed to close down.

Consequently, Friday's resolution changes the operation's name from the U.N. Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) to the U.N. Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH). Although the new venture runs only until Nov. 30 the United States and Canada may ask that it be renewed at Friday's meeting. China's deputy ambassador, Wang Xue-

xian, said that despite reservations on the continued presence of U.N. military personnel in Haiti, China had "taken into full account the urgent requests of the Haitian government and the desires of Latin American countries."

China's U.N. ambassador, Qin Huasun, is expected to visit Haiti shortly. A date for the visit has not been disclosed.

One of the operation's main tasks is to train and monitor Haiti's fledgling police force, which replaced the previous brutal paramilitary force that reported to a junta which overthrew former President Jean Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

He was restored to power three years later by a U.S.-led 22,000-member multinational force. The United Nations took over peacekeeping in March 1995 with 6,000 troops, a number reduced steadily since then.

Haiti's U.N. ambassador, Pierre Lelong, told the Council that "the departure from Haiti of U.N. troops while the National Police was still inexperienced and under-equipped (would) pose a serious problem and could jeopardise all the efforts made so far by the government to establish the rule of law and rebuild the country."

Canada's Ambassador Robert Fowler reminded Council members that the new Haitian police force was met regularly with violence and sometimes initiated the violence itself.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has staked considerable prestige on the Haiti mission since the October 1994 U.S. intervention. The administration apparently wants to make sure there are no disruptions in Haiti that would call for a return of American soldiers, who are now out of the country.

ANC way ahead in Zulu local elections

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress won most towns and cities in local polls in South Africa's Zulu heartland, but rural results yet to come were expected to favour the rival Inkatha Freedom Party.

Provincial ANC leaders quaffed champagne at the city hall in the main city of Durban, bailing Wednesday's elections in which they had more votes than their two nearest rivals combined with a third of ballots still uncounted.

"Viva the forces of progress. The people at last have spoken. Peace and development will reign high," ANC official S'bu Ndebele said to cheers from about 50 councillors elected in the Indian Ocean port city.

The conservative Inkatha picked up minimal support to bigger towns, but was confident of handsome wins among traditionalists in the countryside where it has strong ties with tribal chiefs.

Counting continued into Saturday and officials said most rural results would be known at the weekend.

The ANC's leader in the province, Jacob Zuma, said the important councils were those in the main centres which his party had won.

"You take where it matters the most, when you want to control the province," he told the singing and dancing party faithful.

Inkatha Secretary General Ziba Jiyane said his party was optimistic despite the ANC's strong showing.

"The best is yet to come," he told Reuters. His party won some of the rural seats with 96 per cent of votes cast.

South Africans were relieved that long-delayed bloodshed was averted on

polling day, watching the results that could change the balance of power in the volatile province.

The Zulu nationalist Inkatha, Mandela's main black rivals, won control of the provincial assembly in 1994's historic all-race general election with 50 per cent of the vote. The ANC says that was only because of violence and vote-rigging.

Clashes between supporters of the two parties have killed 14,000 people since conflict was stoked in the early 1980s by the white apartheid regime, gleeful to see its foes divided.

Tight security, as well as joint peace drives by the two parties, ensured a violence-free election day.

The ANC's Zuma said the party's victories showed the balance of power in KwaZulu-Natal had shifted and paved the way for a new era of cooperation.

"No party can wish another away," he said. "They will have to increase their respect for each other."

The National Party of South Africa's last white President, F.W. de Klerk, emerged as the second party in most urban areas, overtaking Inkatha whose 25 per cent share of the Durban vote two years ago had evaporated.

On the national level, the "Nats" pulled out of the ANC-led government of national unity, leaving Inkatha's chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi in an uneasy alliance with Mr. Mandela.

KwaZulu-Natal is the last part of South Africa to elect local councils to install the country's final level of post-apartheid government.

Most of the country voted in November, but violence and fighting over constituency boundaries and voters' rolls delayed polling in the province.



Ancient tomb located using satellite imagery

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese scientists said Sunday they had discovered the base of a structure which might have been an ancient pyramid, located in the Egyptian desert. A team of scientists from the Waseda and Tokai universities said they had launched a search project six years ago to locate a pyramid along the Nile River, by analysing images and data from Japanese, U.S. and Russian satellites. Team members said they had detected the presence of a previously undetected large solid object on a plateau 15 kilometres south of Cairo. In digging at the site in March and April, the team discovered the remains of what is probably a pyramid — 50 metres long on an east-west axis and 17 metres long on a north-south axis — at a depth of some 10 centimetres (4 inches). Sakimi Yoshimune, an Egyptologist at Waseda University, said the scientists estimated the site to be some 3,500 years old, judging from the age of the ceramic and other objects found there. One structure found at the site is thought to be a tomb chapel for a king's clan or a high official, he said.

Children find ancient fossil treasure

CANBERRA (AP) — Two Australian children digging through rocks and dirt in Australia's outback have unearthed one of the world's most important fossil finds, showing amphibians lived here 250 million years ago, Australian fossil experts said. The find indicates Australia could be the place where fish first crawled out of the water and land-based life began more than 100 million years before the dinosaurs. Queensland University researcher Dr. Hamish McIlroy, who led the team, said the find was "a major discovery". Nature, the world's leading scientific journal, has this week published the findings. Queensland's University of Queensland zoologist Tony Thibault, his colleague Mr. Hamish and two other researchers said the find is significant. "The fossil is significant because it shows that direct descendants of the current form of amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals — not distributed throughout the southern as well as the northern hemispheres," Mr. Hamish said. "Through the southern hemisphere 300 million years ago, it is thought to be too cold in amphibians to survive and most of them fossils were found in Scotland," he added. Mr. Hamish's wife, Angela, 13, and Thibault's nine-year-old son, Tom, found the fossils of teeth and bones from amphibious animals in the northern state of Queensland last year. The team had travelled after the son of a local car dealer sent them the fossilised fish spines to analyse. The fossils come from an ancient time when Australia was part of a supercontinent linked to India, Africa, Antarctica and South America.



A crowd of 10,000 are crushed at a Melbourne shopping centre Friday as they attempt to see X-Files star Gillian Anderson. Two people were hospitalised and dozens more were treated for hyperventilation as they showed up for a glimpse of Anderson who plays FBI agent Dana Scully in the enormously popular TV series (Reuters photo)

X-Files star in close encounter with fans

CANBERRA (R) — Two people were rushed to hospital and dozens more treated for hyperventilation after more than 10,000 people showed up to see The X-Files star Gillian Anderson at a suburban shopping centre in Melbourne Friday. Anderson, who plays FBI agent Dana Scully in the popular television series, appeared to the crowd to be careful as she surged forward after she appeared on stage. "Be careful of each other, you don't want to make a bad impression on Scully, do you?" she said as the centre's 22 security staff struggled with the crowd. The Age newspaper said. Anderson, who is on a promotional tour of Australia for entertainment groups Foxnet and Twentieth Century Fox, was at the centre to sign copies of a new X-Files video. Organisers said they underestimated Anderson's popularity and did not expect the legion of fans, so-called X-Files. "We knew that she was going to be popular but I don't think anyone envisaged she would have drawn such a crowd," said the Southland's Shopping Centre Manager John Gilbert. Anderson's appearance was cut short for fear of serious injury to the fans. "I've not experienced anything like it," Anderson later told the Herald Sun newspaper. "I've never made a mall appearance before, so I really had no point of reference. When I did the (X-Files) convention in the States we had about 3,000, but that was all the place could hold. "The welcome here has been overwhelming, absolutely incredible," she said. An extra 14 security guards and 22 police were ordered in to deal with an expected crowd of 15,000 at an appearance by Anderson in Sydney, a spokeswoman for the Westfield Miranda Shopping Centre said.



Television X-Files star Gillian Anderson pictured in front of a poster of her TV character Dana Scully at a public appearance in a shopping mall in Melbourne (Reuters photo)

Clinton prepared to block visa for Gerry Adams — report

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton is considering refusing Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams a visa to enter the United States and to stop his party's supporters there from raising funds, the Times reported Saturday. It quoted senior sources at the State Department as saying that a number of measures were being considered, including the ban on Mr. Adams and further curtailment of the activities of Friends of Sinn Féin and Noraid. The paper said these U.S.-based organisations raised funds for the Irish Republican Army (IRA), of which Sinn Féin is the political wing. The White House however told the Times that there had been no change in its policy. The State Department sources reportedly said that the U.S. administration was already questioning the extension of work permits to non-Americans employed by the two organisations. Under the terms of the new anti-terrorism bill, the U.S. government can curb the activities of any organisation that channels money to international terrorist groups, the Times noted. It added that although this could apply to the IRA, the friends of Sinn Féin has one employee who is not a U.S. citizen, Mairead Keane, who is based in Washington. Her office told the paper Friday that there had been no indication that she might be

refused an extension of her visa. Membership of Noraid is said to be exclusively American. Mr. Clinton has taken an active role in the Northern Ireland peace process, and visited the province last November at a time when it appeared peace had firmly taken hold and that ceasefires by the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries were permanent. During that visit, Mr. Clinton was photographed shaking Mr. Adams's hand at a meticulously-timed "accidental" meeting. But many observers have said that the U.S. leader felt betrayed when the IRA ended its 17-month ceasefire on Feb. 9 with a bomb in London's Docklands that left two dead. A shift was clear in the way Mr. Adams was treated on his Saint Patrick's Day visit to Washington in March. He was denied his customary invitation to the White House for the party that is top of the calendar for all Irish Americans. A year previously, Mr. Adams was feted at the event. Mr. Clinton called on the IRA to renew its ceasefire ahead of historic all-party Northern Ireland peace talks that opened in Belfast on June 10, but his appeal went unheeded, and the organisation detonated a bomb two weeks ago that injured 200 people in Manchester, northern England. And Friday, a mortar attack on a British army base in north Germany was blamed on the IRA.

Mongolian campaign ends amid mudslinging, near riot

ULAN BATOR (R) — Campaigning for Mongolia's second parliamentary elections has closed with government and opposition trading charges of slander and vote-rigging and after an aborted opposition rally nearly touched off a riot. Sunday's elections, Mongolia's second for the Great Hural since a peaceful revolution shattered nearly 70 years of Communist rule in 1990, were expected to return the formerly Communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) to power, but with a reduced majority. Late Friday, a planned Ulan Bator rally by the opposition Capitalist Party, led by a cashmere tycoon, was called off amid technical problems, nearly sparking a riot when thousands of disappointed spectators threw stones but later dispersed. The opposition Democratic Union Coalition wrapped up their campaign with a political jamboree at which candidates hacked their pleas for votes with a show by a popular rock band and a fireworks display before a cheering crowd of hundreds. Final campaigning by the ruling MPRP was low-key but Secretary Enkhmandakh said he was confident of victory. Under Mongolia's election law, all political campaigning must end 24 hours before the polling and on Saturday candidates spent the day inspecting ballot stations. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was in Mongolia to watch the balloting.

Western agencies struggling to avert North Korean famine

BEIJING (AFP) — A Red Cross official painted a bleak picture Sunday of the disaster situation in North Korea, where hundreds of thousands of children are having to survive on a diet well below the minimum subsistence level. While the severity of the situation will be partially eased after the October harvest, long-term problems abound following the destruction of much of the country's irrigation network and flood damage that could require a total overhaul of the agricultural system, said Geoff Dennis, Pyongyang representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Flooding triggered by the country's heaviest rainfall in living memory in August last year affected 5.2 million people and devastated 400,000 hectares (988,000 acres) of farmland, according to Red Cross estimates. Among the 500,000 people targeted by Western agencies as those most in need, four to six-year-olds are getting as little as 38 per cent of the recognised emergency level calorie intake. "That means their growth will inevitably be stunted in later life," Mr. Dennis said, adding that the 130,000 people under the responsibility of the Red Cross were only receiving three bowls of rice a day. "That is certainly below subsistence level," Mr. Dennis said. "It's work on a knife edge, as we only have enough money to order rice one month in advance, and I have only just managed to seal the order for July's supply," said Dennis, who arrived in Beijing Saturday to lobby foreign embassies here for more funds. In the absence of the kind of heart-rending television footage the world has come to expect of famine-hit countries, overseas aid has been disappointing — a fact that rankles with the aid agencies. "In the past we have been criticised for not acting fast enough. In this case we have moved quickly and there is an excellent chance to avert a major disaster, but nobody seems to be that interested," Mr. Dennis said. The Red Cross needs between \$2 and \$3 million to maintain its current level of food aid until October, but wants \$5 million in order to raise support to the subsistence level. The North Korean government has admitted that the October harvest will be down between 10 and 20 per cent on the 1994 figure, although Mr. Dennis said he believes that estimate is optimistic given the intensive damage to arable land caused by the flooding. "It's going to take three or four years to get the land back into shape in many areas, which basically means a rethink



North Korean farmers in the village of Tongsin queue to receive their ration of rice in one of the 13 distribution points set up by the International Red Cross. Some 13,250 villagers in Tongsin, in the north of the country, received food aid as famine threatens hundreds of thousands after the worst floods in a century devastated crops last year (Reuters photo)

of the country's entire agricultural system." Another growing problem is deforestation, especially in the north of the country, where starving farmers are cutting down trees and selling the timber across the border with China to get money for food. Aid agencies, especially Unicef, were also increasingly fearful about epidemics among children of famine-related diseases such as measles and diarrhoea which have already been reported in the country, Mr. Dennis said. After the October harvest has been brought in, the Red Cross hopes to move away from basic food aid and implement longer-term programmes, including disaster prevention projects. Meanwhile a U.S.-led consortium said Friday South Korean officials negotiating a nuclear reactor agreement with their northern neighbour will travel for the first time to North Korea for talks. The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), which represents the U.S., Japanese and South Korean governments, said it had agreed with North Korea to hold talks there next month to discuss the project. "This is the first time we've held any negotiations in connection with the light water reactor project in the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)," Jason Shaplen, a consortium official, told Reuters. "It's very important to KEDO that at least some of the protocol negotiations are held in the DPRK and we're happy that the next round will be there," he said.

The talks are scheduled to begin on July 20 at a conference site in the Myohyang Mountain area. North Korea and the consortium signed a \$4.5 billion deal to provide Pyongyang with two Western-made light water reactors, provided in a 1994 accord in which North Korea gave up its nuclear programme. That pact was signed after three years of difficult negotiations on replacing Communist North Korea's nuclear programme with one that produced less weapons-grade plutonium. Light water reactors are less suitable for producing plutonium for weapons, the purpose for which Washington and its allies suspected North Korea was using its Soviet model plants. KEDO said in a statement the talks next month would examine protocols concerning the project site and North Korean goods, facilities and services which would be provided in connection with the reactor project. The KEDO delegation would consist of consortium officials and government representatives from South Korea, Japan and the United States, the statement said. In May, KEDO and Pyongyang agreed on the text of a protocol on the juridical status, privileges, immunities and consular protection for KEDO in North Korea. Tension between North and South Korea has flared in recent months. North Korea made incursions this year along the tense border in what the U.S.-led United Nations Command has called a significant violation of the 1953 truce that ended the Korean War.

Major survives threat to parliamentary majority

REIGATE, England (R) — British Prime Minister John Major was spared the humiliation of losing his overall majority in parliament Friday when a strong-hold of his Conservative Party rejected a call to sack its local legislator. A packed meeting of local party members in the prosperous southern town of Reigate voted by 311 to 206 to stick with right-wing maverick Sir George Gardiner as their candidate for the next general election. They turned down a recommendation from their executive committee to seek a new candidate because of what it said was Sir George's disloyalty to Mr. Major. Sir George had said that if the vote had gone against him, he would have immediately resigned from the House of Commons lower chamber of parliament, leaving his 323 colleagues there facing 323 members of opposition parties. "I am just overwhelmed and overjoyed by getting such a substantial majority. I am very pleased that my party members chose good sense...I hope there will be no lasting bitterness over this result," he told reporters afterwards. Mr. Major had a majority of 21 seats in parliament after the 1992 general election but has seen it whittled away by by-election defeats and defections. He is determined to remain in government until

close to the May 1997 deadline for a general election in the hope that an economic revival will close the large opinion poll lead currently enjoyed by the opposition Labour Party. Sir George's resignation would have made the task more difficult although Mr. Major could probably have struggled on with the support of pro-British Protestant members of parliament from Northern Ireland. Sir George's problems with his local party stemmed from Mr. Major's move last year to quell Conservative Party infighting over Europe by stepping down from its leadership and inviting a challenge. Sir George consulted with local party members on whether he should support Mr. Major's reelection or back his right-wing opponent, former cabinet minister John Redwood. Although the local members polled came out 55 per cent for Mr. Major, Sir George — a fierce opponent of greater European integration — cast his vote for Mr. Redwood. At Friday's meeting, Sir George produced a letter signed by 120 fellow Conservative legislators urging the 1,200 local party members to stick with him. It was a testament to the party's eagerness to avoid a by-election in the seat, despite the fact that the Conservatives won a 17,004 vote majority there at the 1992 general election.

Burma sanctions garner qualified support

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department said Friday it would work with Congress on legislation that would impose strict sanctions on military-ruled Burma, a day after a key Senate panel approved the measure. "We think that sanctions are certainly an option that the United States government can use," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said. "But we would prefer not to see sanctions dictated in legislation." The State Department is "willing to work with (Congress) on this. And we hope to, in the future, work with them to design a legislative approach that makes sense," Mr. Davies said. He also reiterated U.S. support for Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate released last July from six years under house arrest. The ruling junta in Burma, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and accused of massive human rights abuses, recently renewed its crackdown on Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy supporters. U.S. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, speaking to reporters earlier Friday in Bangkok, appeared to back moves in Congress for economic sanctions on the South East Asian country. "There are times when economic restrictions done in an appropriate fashion ... can be very helpful," he said, citing Burma as one country where such an approach could be effective. Acting on a bill proposed by Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, the Senate Appropriations Committee Thursday voted 27-0 in favour of a foreign operations bill that would bar any U.S. aid or investment in Burma. The sanctions would remain in force until the U.S. gov-

ernment can certify that the SLORC has handed over power to an elected government. A similar bill is meanwhile pending in the lower house of representatives, but both have drawn sharp criticism from American oil companies operating in Burma. Supporters of sanctions against Burma have drawn increasing support from a grassroots campaign launched over the Internet by Burmese exiles and dissidents. The Free Burma Coalition celebrated the signing Tuesday of a new law making Massachusetts the first U.S. state to ban contracts between companies with commercial ties to Burma and the state or its agencies. A half-dozen U.S. cities have passed similar "selective purchasing" legislation barring government contracts with companies that do business in Burma. Amid worsening repression, the Clinton administration has gradually toughened its position on Burma though U.S. officials remain wary of imposing unilateral sanctions at the federal level. The White House recently sent two envoys to the region to press Burma's neighbours and Japan to forge a common approach aimed at pressing the junta to step down. Few concrete results have emerged so far. The United States has called for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Burma, including more than 100 NLD activists who were picked up in May and remain in detention, apparently without trial or charges. Burma has come under international pressure this week after the death in prison of James Leander "Lem" Nichols, a former honorary consul for four European countries, soon after he started serving a three-year term for unauthorised use of telephone and fax lines.

Mrs. Clinton gets a rose named after her

YON, France (R) — A French flower breeder Friday presented Hillary Clinton with a red rose named after the American first lady and renowned her for her political career. The breeder, who has been breeding roses for 30 years, said the rose was named after the first lady because of her political career. The breeder, who has been breeding roses for 30 years, said the rose was named after the first lady because of her political career. The breeder, who has been breeding roses for 30 years, said the rose was named after the first lady because of her political career.

Hasina, Khaleda and Ershad in possible parliamentary meeting

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh's new parliament opens July 14 with the spotlight on an unprecedented event — three national leaders together for the first time, officials said Saturday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, her predecessor Mrs. Khaleda Zia and jailed former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad are expected to attend the inaugural session, officials said Saturday. Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas agreed Friday, on Mrs. Hasina's advice, to summon the first session of the seventh parliament on July 14. A presidential spokesman Saturday said Mr. Biswas would later officially announce the summoning of the session of the 330-member parliament, as constitutionally required. Mrs. Hasina was sworn in as premier this week after leading her Awami League to

victory in the hard-fought June 12 general elections. The presence of Mrs. Hasina is assured, while Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and the possible opposition leader Mrs. Khaleda was expected to attend, having a last-minute change of mind, officials said. Jatiya Party (JP) chief Gen. Ershad was expected to be paroled for the session, party officials said. "We are working on his parole as he was never allowed to take his parliamentary seat before despite winning all five seats he contested," one JP leader said. Analysts said it was unlikely that Mrs. Hasina's government would block his parole. The JP supported the Awami League in forming the government and its secretary general, Anwar Hossain, is a member of the new cabinet.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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When old meets new

IT IS only fair to compensate all those who sustained damages and losses from the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990. That is why the U.N. Security Council decided right from the start that Iraq should eventually pay war damages to all parties and peoples which suffered from the Gulf crisis. Now that Baghdad has accepted a food-for-oil deal under Security Council Resolution 986 to feed its people and provide them with other basic necessities, a large sum of the oil revenues would also be earmarked for compensating people who sustained loss of property or income as a result of the occupation and war that followed.

We certainly cannot quarrel with this international policy on compensating the victims of a war that they had nothing to do with. What we object to is the international selectivity policy on war damages by excluding other areas of conflict from this broad and principled policy. Take for example the Palestinian people who were forced to abandon their homes and cities and towns in the 1947-48 Israeli-Arab war or the Palestinians who fled their homeland in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war leaving behind all their belongings, business opportunities and even some of their loved ones. These people have yet to be compensated even though decades have passed since their problems began.

It is amazing how swift the international reaction to the Gulf crisis and how effective the solicitation of compensation for damages from Baghdad have been in relation to the Palestinian problem. Nothing comparable has ever been demonstrated in recent times whether with regard to, besides the Palestinians, the Lebanese or other peoples in Africa, Latin America or Asia who have fallen victims to wars and crises.

True there is in place a multilateral peace committee mandated to discuss the Palestinian refugee issue including their right of return to their original homes and cities or towns or their compensation, but the slow pace with which the Palestinian rights have been dealt with by the international community contrasts dramatically with the way Iraq is being treated on this subject. Even under the most optimistic scenarios, it is highly unlikely that Israel would ever be made to compensate the Palestinians the way Iraq was forced to pay war damages.

Of course the difference between the two situations is crystal clear: Israel has been the victor in all its wars with the Arab side whereas Iraq was the loser in its Gulf war. This leads us to the conclusion that there are two international compensatory policies: One for the victor and the other for the vanquished. This division would of course make a mockery of the protestation that the new world order is any different from the old one.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Saturday expressed the view that redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron represents one of the crucial tests to Israel's new Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Fahed Fanek said the time is passing fast and the redeployment decision should be taken as soon as possible if the new government is to prove its credibility and gain respect from other countries, including the Arabs. The decision for redeployment was taken by the previous Labour-led government and should have been implemented last March but the extremists in Israel chose to delay the implementation under the excuse that troops were needed inside the town to protect 400 Jewish settlers who live amongst 120,000 Arabs, noted the writer. He said the Peres government, which signed the deal with the Palestinians, failed to carry it out and left the question of redeployment outstanding on purpose, to embarrass the Netanyahu government and place it in a very difficult position, unable to decide whether to carry out the deal or please the extremists and hold on to the Arab city. According to the writer, Mr. Netanyahu should decide whether to respect the deal with the Palestinians or give up the whole peace deal and remain adamant.

A WRITER for Al Dustour accused Mr. Netanyahu of trying to ruin relations between Syria and Jordan, especially after these two countries patched up their differences at the Cairo Arab summit. While the investigations into the infiltration into Israeli occupied lands in the Jordan Valley last week were still going on, Netanyahu accused Syria of being responsible for the incident in which three Israeli soldiers were killed, noted the writer. It was Mr. Netanyahu who demanded that the world community impose sanctions on Syria, alleging that it gives protection to terrorists, added the writer who also pointed to Israel's ongoing efforts to form an alliance with Turkey against Syria as a form of pressure on Damascus to force it to succumb to the will of the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Arab economic integration — the only way to prosperity

THANKS TO the unexpected victory of the Likud bloc led by Benjamin Netanyahu, it became possible for the Arab leaders to meet and adopt unified positions, not only on political matters but also on economic affairs. Mr. Netanyahu may prove to be more successful in uniting the Arab World than in uniting the two conflicting halves of Israel.

It is taken for granted that the economy is an integral component of the overall national security, whether for each individual Arab country or for the whole Arab Nation. National security could not be realised by accumulating hardware and mobilising big armies. There is no security before building a dynamic and productive national economy able to support national security.

The collapse of the Soviet Union is only an example. The Soviet Union did not lack lethal weapons, intercontinental missiles or nuclear power capable of destroying the globe several times, yet it was defeated to the point of disintegration due to its economic shortcomings.

The final communiqué of the Cairo Arab summit, on June 24, 1996, did not ignore the economic dimension of Arab cooperation. It called for pan-Arab cooperation and integration, targeting an Arab free trade area, especially at

this time of huge economic blocs where the small units have no place to grow and live safely.

The leaders did not elaborate. Instead, they charged the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League to tackle this vital subject.

Of course, we do not expect a political communiqué issued at summit level to go into details. Suffice it to say that the leaders opened the door and paved the way. The ball is now in the court of Arab economists and businessmen in both the public and private sectors. They have to follow up and exert pressure to convert the generalities of the summit's communiqué into practical steps, policies, agreements and joint projects.

It is important not to repeat the bitter experience of the eleventh Arab summit which was held in Amman in 1980. That conference was essentially of an economic and developmental nature. It laid down a comprehensive strategy for Arab development. Huge amounts of money were committed and allocated. The decade of the eighties was supposed to be the decade of Arab economic development. Unfortunately, it turned out to be the decade of Arab economic crises, indebtedness and, finally, submission to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

If this crucial matter is left to the well-known ineffective mechanisms of the Arab League and Arab summits, nothing will happen. These institutions have the culture of no follow up and no implementation. If a summit conference devoted entirely to formulating a pan-Arab strategy for development in 1980 did not work, most likely an economic paragraph in a long political communiqué issued by a summit devoted to support the peace process and Arab reconciliation will work even less.

What concerns us at this juncture is that the Arab leaders have endorsed and signed an integrational directive. What remains is that chambers of commerce, chambers of industry, intellectual activists and other economic and political elements jump to the opportunity and plunge through the door that was formally opened by the summit communiqué.

It remains to be seen whether something can come about or whether Arab economic cooperation and integration is still next to impossible, so much so that integration and cooperation with non-Arab Middle Eastern states or European Mediterranean states seem more feasible than inter-Arab economic cooperation and integration.

Post Arab summit agenda: No need to appease Israel

By Farida Salfiti

WITH THE change of guard in Israel from a liberal-leftist government to one of the most hardline rightist governments in the country's recent history, the Arab states should avoid a policy of appeasement, and abandon the present approach of granting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the benefit of the doubt, allowing him in the process to prove, or otherwise, his presumed peaceful intentions.

A united Arab stance (as far as one is realistically possible within the parameters imposed by continuous Arab divisions, rivalries and shifts in the balance of power) is the strategy to adopt. The convening of the first Arab summit in six years in Cairo last week is a step in the right direction. The Arabs must play their cards of peace/security and normalisation carefully to exert pressure on Israel. Only in this way could the contradictions and inconsistencies between Netanyahu's pledges and what is realistically viable be exposed.

Netanyahu apologists in the West and elsewhere are adopting a wait and see policy, under the illusion that his election campaign promises are one thing and his actual policies as prime minister are another. True, the two are not always the same. But Netanyahu's statements since his election leave no ambiguities. During his recent meetings with U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, he confirmed that he was intent on pursuing the very policies which he had promised his electorate, and according to the basis upon which he was voted in. These policies are inconsistent with the pursuit of peace.

The great victory witnessed by the religious group in the Knesset and the secular ultra-nationalists in Netanyahu's coalition leaves no doubt as to their intentions. They are firmly dedicated to the pursuit of their dream of a "Greater Israel." The former in the name of God and Jewish redemption, and the latter in the name of Zionism. On this score, they are in full agreement with the Likud.

This leaves no room for territorial compromises as they vigorously expound the policy of a reinvigorated settlement drive in the West Bank. And in turn, this leaves little room for reigniting the battered peace process.

By voting in the hardline Netanyahu, Israelis had no qualms about the fact that they want it all. They want land, peace, individual security, and economic prosperity. They want further consolidation of the "peace dividend" which Israel had already begun enjoying since signing its peace agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan, without conceding anything on the peace front.

The Arab states should adopt a steadfast position and make it unequivocally clear that peace without territorial compromises is a non-starter. By exhibiting some appearance of a unified position, and continuing with their efforts to coordinate amongst themselves, the Arabs might be able to exert pressure on the Israeli government as it

would appear to be failing in regards to some of its stated objectives. Meanwhile, as they did in the Cairo summit, the Arabs would continue to assert their unwavering support for a just and comprehensive peace as their strategic option. The onus would thus be shifted on Israel.

The Arabs have two cards in their hands — Israelis' personal security and Israel's economic prosperity that is riding on the tailgate of the so-called peace dividend. Both hinge on the continuation of the peace process.

The Likud government had promised its electorate that it can handle the negotiations far better than its Labour predecessor. Should the Arab states not be forthcoming under Likud conditions, while maintaining their unwavering support for peace, negotiations will be meaningless. Therefore, Likud would have failed on that count. Stalled negotiations have grave ramifications for Israeli security and economy.

Should the Arab states freeze their normalisation

process with Israel, this would be another blow to the government. It would also translate into a setback to Israel's economic prosperity whose continuation requires a peace-like environment. And for that to happen, the land-for-peace formula, which the Likud rejects, must be pursued. In fact, the Netanyahu government will surely fail and the right would be severely wounded if the Arabs refuse to cooperate with the new rejectionist government in Israel.

The Arab states must make a complete turnaround from the policy which they pursued under Rabin and Peres. Then, appeasement was the key word, and attempts at a united Arab stance were not even made. The reasoning: appeasing Labour's hawkish policies would prevent a truly hawkish government from coming to power, and conversely, a united stance would give ammunition and justification to a right-wing shift in government.

Well, bets on Peres winning the elections, and efforts to indirectly support

his campaign failed. Now the Arabs must deal with the realities of an Israel they have for too long ignored. They must face the reality that they are confronted with an intransigent and greedy Israel that wants it all. Efforts at Arab coordination should send the signal to Israel that it cannot have its cake and eat it too. Everything has its price — and there is little room for haggling. Netanyahu should not be granted the luxury of time to prove his intentions as he will use it instead to further cement his rejectionist goals. Moreover, these goals have already been stated loud and clear. It would be detrimental to the Arabs should they fall on deaf ears. Above all, the temptation to revert back to the old routine of appeasement must be resisted.

Farida Salfiti is the publisher of the Paris-based newsletter ISSUES, Perspectives on Middle East and World Affairs. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Reassessing Arab-Turkish relations

By Mohammad Adnan Al Bakht

WHEN THE founder of the modern Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, decided to abolish the Sultanate, in 1924, and to move the capital from the city of Istanbul to Ankara, in the heart of Anatolia, he had in mind to distance himself and his new republic from the old Ottoman Sultanate and to build a state, following the example of European countries.

Three years later, the Turkish leader led his famous inkilab revolution by adopting the Latin script to substitute for the Arabic script. In a bid to lay down the basis for a new and pure Turkish language, he formed a special committee and entrusted it with the task of purifying the Ottoman language by removing all Arabic terminology and Persian vocabulary therefrom. The committee resorted to coining words and to adapting European terminology for this purpose.

In this particular era, the late King Faisal of Iraq tried to reconcile his country's relations with Turkey, with the objective of forming a union between the Arab East and Turkey again. The Turkish leader rejected his proposal and, subsequently, cold relations prevailed between Arab countries and Turkey. Tense relations were even more aggravated by the annexation

of Turkey to the Hattay region, formerly known as the Alexandretta region.

Relations between Arabs and Turkey took a turn for the better, especially between the two Hashemite dynasties and Turkey, during the days of Turkish President Ismet Eninon.

With the escalation of the cold war after 1945, and the increasing interest of the Atlantic organisation in rendering Turkey an advanced country to face the expansion of Stalinism and Communism, Turkey eventually started to gain significance in the West. Arab countries, which were led, later on, by late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser, refused to join military pacts. The well-known Iraqi General Nouri tried to establish the so-called Baghdad Pact, in an attempt to balance things and to give importance to Arab countries and the United Kingdom against the United States of America. However, his efforts were destined to failure with the revolution of July 14, 1958. Hence, relations between Arabs and Turkey continued to deteriorate.

Turkey, a huge state with wealthy resources, was always looking for a major role to play in the region. Following the fall down of the Soviet Union, the raison d'être of Turkey diminished.

However, Turkey's role

in the region started to emerge and was actually manifested on the following two occasions:

(1) The emergence of the Muslim Republics in Central Asia, and the appeal on the part of Turkey to fill in the vacuum.

(2) The Gulf war where the state of Turkey and some extreme Turkish political parties were looking for a more significant role to assume, which does not exclude readjustment of borders.

Despite its natural abundance, Turkey is, financially speaking, in short of liquid money. Thus, it is always in need of neighbouring Arab countries to export its skilled manpower and agricultural and industrial produce to.

Now with the peace treaty reached between Israel, on the one side, and Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority, on the other, Turkey is seeking a new window of opportunity where its old role as a partner in the Middle East, can reemerge. There is high potential for further collaboration between the Arabs and Turkey. Yet, first the Americans and the Israelis must finalise the peace process in the "new" Middle East. This could involve military issues such as getting Arab countries into military associations, pacts and agencies.

In fact, these possibilities were already rejected

by the Arabs back in the 1950s.

Cooperation between Turkey and the Arabs in terms of water resources, dividends, human rights, minorities, ethnicities, cultural rights, is at a standstill. Efforts have not been able to put an end to this situation. Only unthinkable incidents and an alliance of foreign powers, similar to that led by the American leadership against Iraq, can actually yield fruitful results in this matter.

Even teaching Arabic, especially in Central Asia, has to go through American and Turkish channels. Therefore, because of the lack of a future vision and genuine political creativity on the part of Arabs, Turkey will be reluctant to take the Arab countries seriously, with the exception, perhaps, of Egypt as a standing contender and competitor.

Thus, the future needs a new way of thinking and history cannot be revisited. On the contrary, there is need for an extraordinary way of thinking and concerted action by the Arabs. Otherwise, we will not be able to convince the Turkish population not to reconsider readjustment of borders.

The writer is president of AL al-Bayr University. The article is reprinted from Al-Nadwah, a magazine published by the World Affairs Council-Amman.

Ukrainian city wages war on Communist symbols

By Rostislav Khotin

Reuters

ODESSA, Ukraine — The Black Sea port of Odessa, a city with a reputation for dissent even in the Soviet era, is waging war on Communist symbols.

In March, Mayor Eduard Gurvits, hucking a trend towards increased Communist support in cities throughout Ukraine and Russia, issued orders to pull down all remaining statues of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin by the Mayday holiday.

Streets honouring revolutionary heroes have been abruptly renamed and freshly painted signs and plaques put in place.

Mr. Gurvits's order was all but fulfilled. Only one Lenin statue remains — protected by a decree classifying it as an architectural monument.

"It is a sacred task to get rid of Lenin. It is simply incomprehensible that he was allowed to remain standing," Mr. Gurvits told Reuters during festivities this month marking the 51st anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany.

"Anyway, just who was this Vladimir Ulyanov, otherwise known as Lenin? He produced only suffering and victims. For Ukraine he did absolutely nothing at all."

The campaign was part of a daily slanging match in the city pitting Mr. Gurvits, a member of Odessa's 45,000-strong Jewish community, against Ruslan Bodelan, Communist head of Odessa Regional Council.

The two men take turns, on television and in newspapers, to throw verbal punches over who runs local affairs better.

The fight is as much over property as anything else. Each wants to renovate the city's dilapidated airport and control facilities linked to Odessa's big merchant marine.

Mr. Gurvits wants to build a huge port terminal to process Middle East oil. Mr. Bodelan says it would destroy the city's environment.

"Gurvits has concentrated all power in his own hands," Mr. Bodelan told local newspapers.

"Everywhere there is a hunt for ideological enemies. Nothing is getting done. Basic problems remain unsolved. Houses go unrepaired, cultural monuments are being pulled down."

Five years after independence, Communists are once again the largest single faction in Ukraine's parliament. In Russia, communist standard-bearer Gennady Zyuganov is fanned to oust incumbent Boris Yeltsin in June's presidential election.

Ukrainian liberals accuse the Communists of working against the very principle of independence. Some government sources say the authorities are considering banning the Communist party as in other former Soviet republics, such as Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

Features

Mexican village shrug off threat of Popocatepetl volcano

By Joseph B. Frazier
The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Mexico — Gerardo Anulco is not a talkative man, but he's been conversing a lot lately with Popocatepetl, the smoking, belching volcano that looms over this mountain village.

He is the town "tiempo," a hereditary position whose origins are lost in time but whose job is to keep watch over the mountain for the town, listening to what it has to say.

He says the volcano assures him everything will be OK despite the recent increase in activity, including an explosion that killed five hikers a few weeks ago.

Scientists are not so sure, their monitors indicate trouble may lie ahead.

Stanley Williams, a volcanologist at Arizona State University, said only two or three other volcanoes in the world throw out as much gas as Popocatepetl.

Science and superstition blend in this town on the slopes of the 5,484 metres mountain.

Rumours have swept the area for months that former president Carlos Salinas de Gortari sold the mountain to the Japanese, who want to plant the versatile nopal cactus on the slopes.

Some fear if they leave until the volcano calms down, they will return to find their homes and tiny farms occupied by Japanese peasants.

"It's what they say," shrugged Antonio Perez, lounging at the nearly deserted city ball overlooking a postcard-perfect town square on the flanks of the volcano, "how can we know?"

On April 30, "Popo" gave out what may have been its greatest explosion in centuries, killing five climbers who had been warned to stay off, and showering Santiago Xalitxintla and nearby San Nicolas de Los Ranchos with bits of hot rock.

Safety officials play down the likelihood of a catastrophic eruption, but say one the size of April 30 — or bigger — is probably at some point as lava builds within the crater.

Nobody is being evacuated, but authorities are urging communities to conduct evacuation drills and make sure the roads out are in good shape.

Santiago Xalitxintla is two hours by car and a couple of centuries in time from smoggy, noisy Mexico City.

"God knows his work," said Anulco, the tiempo who has lived all his 49 years on the slopes of Popocatepetl, which means smoking mountain in the Aztec Indian language Nahuatl.

"The Bible makes it clear that as the coming of the saviour nears, more events like this will take place and we expect to see more of them here," he said. "We aren't afraid of it. Our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents all grew up here."

About every 15 or 20 minutes a white ball of steam and gas — Popocatepetl — lift from the crater and dissolve in the wind. Villagers say the air sometimes smells of sulfur.

This round of activity began in December 1994, declined the following April and began again this past March.

"It is a new type of activity," said Roberto Meli, head of Mexico's national centre for disaster prevention. "Since March the lava is coming out of the bottom of the crater, slowly filling the

Hong Kong Bun Festival gives polite bow to China

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

CHEUNG CHAU, Hong Kong — It wasn't only "hungry ghosts" the people of Cheung Chau Island were out to appease at their annual "Bun Festival" bingie.

The colourful festival of noisy carnival parades, lion dancing and ancient religious ritual this year also offered a warm kowtow of political correctness towards China before it takes control of Hong Kong when Britain withdraws in mid-1997.

Carnival floats projected traditional themes about princes and warriors from Chinese epics and fairy tales, and also celebrated in advance China's takeover.

Crowds of thousands applauded as they glimpsed floats with contemporary political messages. One carried a girl in Chinese silks mounted on a collage of auspicious 1997 motifs.

A revolving lantern, a world map with China at the centre, the number 405, a miniature volume of Hong Kong's basic law, the red flag of China, and a flag with the baubinia tree orchid.

But no British flag, no police wave for the departing ruler.

The combination of symbols expressed strong national and patriotic feelings about Hong Kong's imminent return to China.

It indicated hostility towards Beijing at grass-roots may be rather less than higher-level Hong Kong politics often suggests.

The purple baubinia, a common bloom in Hong Kong, is ousting the British royal insignia as the territory's emblem after 1997.

The basic law, drawn up to suit Beijing, will be the post-colonial constitution. The 405 was the number of days left until the handover. A caption read "Pearl of the Orient — Hong Kong".

Nearby a portrait of China's late leader Chairman Mao Zedong was hung like an icon in a greengrocery shop.

"We have accepted we will be part of China again, and we are happy to see our country reuniting. So long as we can continue making a good living, we will be very happy," said Joey Cheung, a shopkeeper. "We are all Chinese, and Hong Kong is Chinese."

Cheung Chau, which means "long island", is shaped like a dumb-bell. With 25,000 inhabitants, it is the most densely populated of Hong Kong's outlying islands and, like the rest of them its face is changing rapidly under economic development.

Its sheltered harbour, which faces west and catches glorious sunsets over a huge flotilla of Chinese-style junks, sampans and fishing boats, is one of Hong Kong's most ancient villages.

The island is popular for its holiday cottages and open-air seafood restaurants, and its annual Bun Festival has become its international hallmark.

The festival is a vivid testimony to the endurance of Chinese culture in the face of sweeping economic change, but at the same time evidence of its ability to move with the times.

The annual, weeklong event is staged in the fourth lunar month, around May in the solar calendar.

The festival is an act of expiation to satiate hungry ghosts and the souls of slaughtered fish and beasts, and it is also an act of thanksgiving for deliverance from an ancient plague.

The village worships the deity Pak Tai, a protector of fishermen, the "dark emperor of the north". His temple effigy and those of other deities are carried through the streets in red sedan chairs at the height of the festival.

Outside Pak Tai's temple, Cantonese opera is performed, Taoist priests administer rituals to appease the ghosts, and three huge mountains of buns set upon bamboo and paper scaffolds are erected as an offering to the hungry souls.

Local folk used to rush the bun mountain at the climax of the festival to grab buns from the top of the scaffold. Nowadays, to avoid accidents, the buns are simply handed out.

Nothing but vegetarian food is eaten during the festival, out of respect for the ghosts. Restaurants paste up vegetarian menus, and meat and live fish vanish from their displays.

Bakers do a roaring trade in white steamed buns filled with lotus and sesame jams and stamped with propitious red Chinese characters depicting prosperity, longevity and bliss.

In a style of procession found nowhere else in Hong Kong, children dressed as ancient princes glide over the heads of the teeming crowds, as if walking on thin air, while kung fu clubs parade with banners, ear-splitting cymbals, gongs and drums.

One child stands on the float, and a second child appears to be standing with one foot on an object such as a gun or a vase held by the first, as if performing a miraculous act of balance.

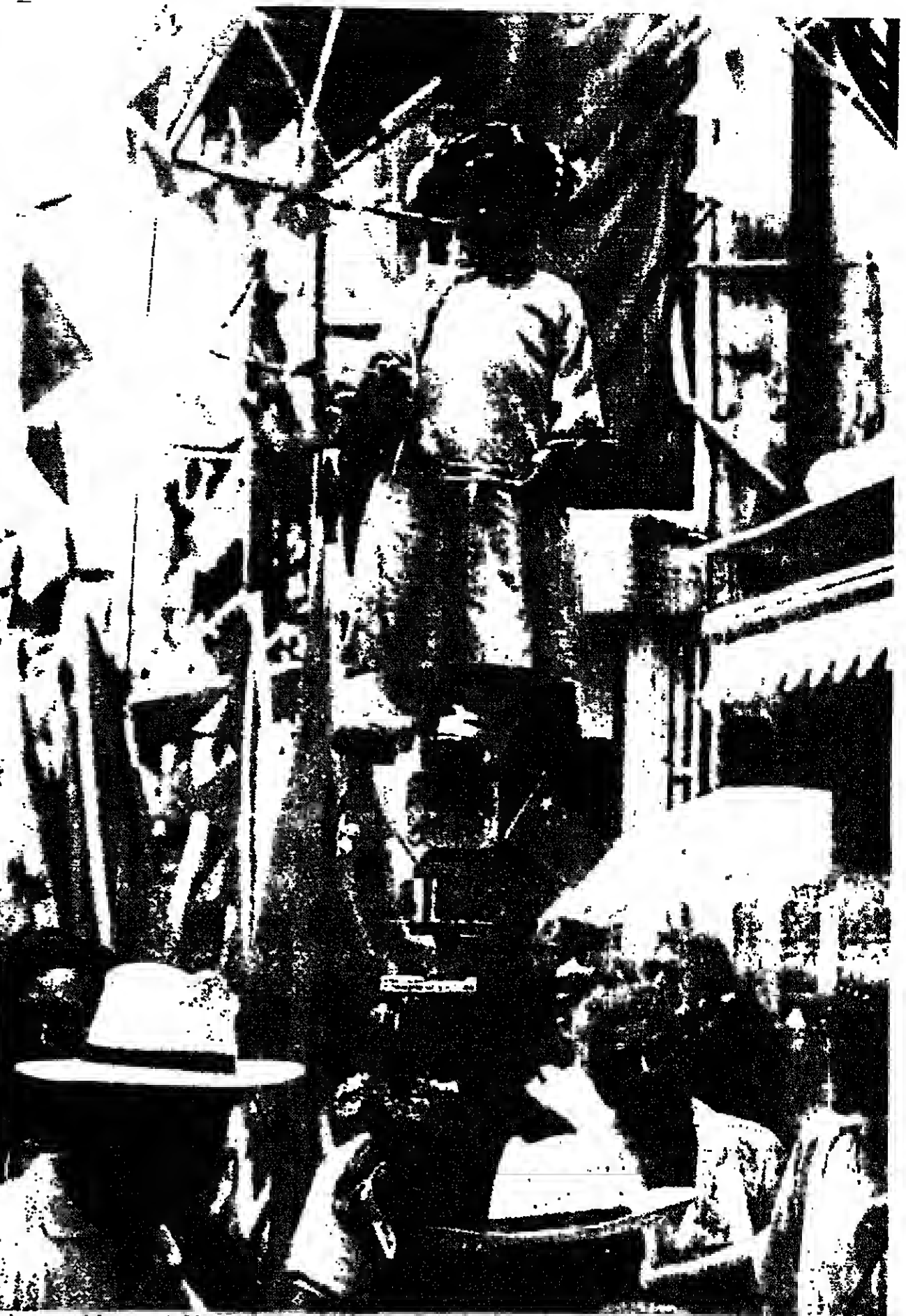
A hidden silt of iron curls through the clothing of the children and the object is held in the first child's hand to support this grand illusion.

Some floats carried a political message against unemployment, a problem in Hong Kong in recent years.

One showed a broken rice bowl, symbol of a shattered livelihood, plus miniature volumes of the labour laws and a spaula signifying "frying squid", local slang for being fired.

Another had a caption "Wish for a stable transition" to Chinese rule in 1997.

China is planning elaborate festivities to mark the transfer of sovereignty next year, and the political statement of the floats in the Cheung Chau festival may provide a foretaste — a reminder it will be predominantly a Chinese affair.



A young girl, supported by an elaborate hidden rig of metal rods, waves as she takes part in Hong Kong's annual 'Bun Festival' parade (Reuters photo)

ase Israel

his campaign failed, the Arabs must deal with the realities of an Israel that have for too long ignored. They must face the reality that they are confined with an intransigent and greedy Israel that want all. Efforts at Arab cooperation should send the message to Israel that it can have its cake and eat it. Everything has its price, and there is little room for bargaining. Netanyahu should not be granted the luxury time to move his terms as he will use it to increase further his rejectionist goals. Moreover, the goals have already been stated loud and clear, would be detrimental to Arabs should they fall deaf ears. Above all, temptation to revert back the old routine of appeasement must be resisted.

nian city war on

Black Sea port of Odessa is even in the Soviet era a hot spot. And, given, backing a nationalist support in times through orders to pull down all from founder Vladimir Lenin but quarry heres have been adorned signs and plaques for it but fulfilled only one by a choice classifying it.

id of Lenin. It is simply not wanted to remain standing. Festivities this month mark the allied victory over a Vladimir Lyudskov, offered only suffering and war by nothing at all.

a daily slugging match between of Odessa's 10th member of Odessa's Balkan against Russian Balkan Regional Council.

television and in newspaper who runs local affairs but property as anything else. It is a daily slugging match between of Odessa's 10th member of Odessa's Balkan against Russian Balkan Regional Council.

a huge port terminal to place an says it would destroy all power in his own hand.

ant for ideological enemies and problems remain in the natural monuments are to be.

Communists are once again, a parliament in Russia, the majority is taken and the Communist election.

Communists or working against. Some government and the Communist.

such as Azerbaijan.

Year 2000 — the problem and solution

By Anirban Mahanti

WE HAVE come to the end of the 20th century. While the world prepares for celebrations and exultations to welcome the next millennium, the stroke of midnight still draws a canopy over us — a canopy of the "Year 2000 Date Problem".

But what actually is the Year 2000 Date Problem? The problem may be difficult to solve, but its not a recondite subject to understand. To save storage space, and perhaps the number of key-strokes necessary to enter a year — most Information Systems allocate two digits to store the year. For example "1996" is stored as "96" in our files and "2000" will be stored as "00". Here lies the glitch. Since "00" is a smaller number than "96", many applications stand the chance of going haywire. Thus someone born on 1936 would be calculated to be 36 years old in the year 2000 (i.e. 00-36=36). And worse, these two digits exist on millions of files and are perhaps used as input on millions of applications. Does this mean that business is about to meet its dead end? Well it

may be so, unless we make our computers differentiate between the 20th and 21st century.

The information systems community is heading towards a devastating crash, much due to the date format standard: MM/DD/YY. The standard puts the last day of this millennium to be 12-31-99 (MM/DD/YY), and after the clock strikes twelve, most computers and applications see Jan. 1, 2000 as 01-01-00. The systems will perceive this as a smaller number; time will appear to be venerated. And if action is not taken now, its effect on business will definitely be pandemic.

The problem is compounded by the fact that different computers will react in different ways to "Date 2000". A simple test which can be carried on the IBM compatible PCs goes as follows. Set the PCs real time clock to 23:58 (fifty eight minutes past eleven at night) with date set as 12/31/99. Then power off the system. Turn on the system after three minutes. Most PCs will reset their dates to Jan. 4, 1980. At least 80 per cent of the PCs are expected to react this way. Thus on Jan. 1, 2000, most PCs would be fooled

to believe that Mrs. Indira Gandhi is still the Indian premier, and that the Berlin wall still stands upright!

According to Gartner Group, Inc., 20 per cent of applications will fail by the end of this year, and the failure rate is expected to rise to 90 per cent by 1999. According to estimates, about \$200 billion will be the rectification cost. And out of this whopping sum, Fortune 100 firms are expected to spend about \$50-100 million each.

The target of Date 2000 seems to be the entire industry. When the problem strikes an organisation, is the question to be answered. Much depends on the Event Horizon of the organisation — the latest future date referenced by any application. Budgetary systems typically have an event horizon of five years. Thus, they are already encompassed by the problem since 1995. Organisations having an event horizon of about thirty years have encountered the problem in the early 1980s. With less than four years in parenthesis, organisations with a processing window of three years are going to be the next target, followed by annual forecasts, quarterly forecasts... to the day-to-day forecasts. If efforts are not taken to expedite our search for a solution in an aggressive way, we are surely into an interminable trap.

Date 2000 is a business problem, not a technical or language problem. This is one of the most important aspects of the millennium. As an example, consider the COBOL-based applications, especially the older COBOL/VS and COBOL/II which do not support the four-digit-year format. Thus, at some point in time, the management needs to augment the software with appropriate codes; else switch to the newer versions and have the entire application rewritten. The decision lies with the management — so it is a management problem.

The social impact of the problem is also highly detrimental. Unless taken care of, inventories will show false ageing, medical supplies will expire, visa cards would lose their value, interest rates will skyrocket and... all this because of just two digits!

All the hue and cry is just not because of the effect it is going to have. There is another, more subtle, cause for the same. Given a single source code, or a single PC, and the expertise, it will not be difficult. But with millions of lines floating here and there, some in mission-critical applications, the question is how to implement these simple bug fixes consistently and smoothly in all of it. That is where billions of dollars are being pumped.

It is not all bad news for the government and corporate houses here. A breakthrough involving over 50 man-years of effort, the Signature 2000 solution is developed by Computer Horizons Corp., one of the largest software consultants of the U.S. The global expertise on the date field reformation is brought to India and Europe by Birla Horizons International, BHI, a joint venture between the Birlas and Computer Horizons Corp., U.S. BHI is the only solution provider of its kind in India, and one of the most cost-effective, high quality software consultants handling this issue in Europe.

CHC's Signature 2000 implements its solution on an enterprisewide basis, not just concerning itself with expanding the date field. It is a total life cycle-

The writer works at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Birla Institute of Technology, India. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

'Don't cross the line,' Islamists warn government on raising price of bread

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan
Times

AMMAN - The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Saturday voiced its firm opposition to a plan, currently being discussed by the Cabinet, for lifting state subsidies on bread and urged the government to adopt other measures to contain over-expenditures and reduce the budget deficit.

Urging the government not to raise bread prices, a statement by the IAF parliamentary office warned the Cabinet "not to cross the line" and called on Jordanians to "refuse and oppose any increase, no matter how minimal, in the current price."

"Any decision related to such a sensitive issue can not be taken unilaterally by the government, without a general discussion involving all the public," deputy general secretary of the IAF, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, told the Jordan Times.

The debate over the lifting of government subsidies on bread began a couple of months ago and Supply Minister Munir Sobar confirmed in a recent interview with the Jordan Times that a special committee, appointed by the Cabinet, has started studying the issue.

The committee will issue a recommendation in the next few days but, according to government officials, it is very difficult to establish when a final decision will be taken.

If state subsidies are lifted, the price of bread in the Kingdom is expected to double from the current 85 fils to 170 fils per kilogramme, the minister of supply told the Jordan Times.

In case of a Parliamentary debate on the new policy, "a quarter of the Parliament members could approve (the lifting of state subsidies on bread), as two thirds of

the deputies are in the government," the IAF statement said.

The IAF bloc in the Parliament occupies now 15 seats out of 80, after deputies Ahmad Kasasbeh and Theib Abdullah withdrew from the party three months ago, following the IAF decision not to join the Kabariti government.

The IAF statement pointed out that, especially after the recent increases in electricity and water charges, Jordanian citizens are already burdened by a heavy taxation system and cannot take any further rise in prices.

According to the IAF, the government should try to reduce the budget deficit by imposing higher income tax on the richest segments of the society and by increasing taxes on tourists and foreign workers and by fighting corruption.

"Instead of lifting the subsidies, the government should cut down the expenses for the ministers' travels and prosecute those who are known to be corrupt," the statement said.

Claiming that livestock breeders use subsidised bread to feed their cattle because it is much less expensive than fodder, the IAF also called on the government to take strict measures against those who abuse state subsidies.

Bread in Jordan is so much cheaper than in neighbouring countries that, according to recent media reports, it is even smuggled out of the Kingdom.

Though the price of wheat on the international market has increased fourfold since 1994, bread and flour prices in Jordan have not been increased, and the government has so far continued to subsidise the 400,000 tonnes of flour Jordanians consume yearly.

As local production is

almost insignificant, the government, which holds the monopoly for importing wheat, is forced to buy from abroad.

The Ministry of Supply pointed out that, due to a new increase of prices on the international market, the last shipment of wheat cost the government \$245 per tonne, 175 per cent more than the usual price of \$140 per tonne.

According to the Ministry of Finance, government subsidies for the current fiscal year are expected to reach up to JD 190 million, five times higher than the JD 38 million allocated by the state budget for subsidies.

The minister of supply stressed that the subsidies will be maintained for the poor and promised to protect the underprivileged segments of the society. But, though understanding the government's difficulties, the IAF "does not think that the remedy lies in raising the price of bread."

In its campaign against the lifting of state subsidies on bread the IAF could find a precious ally in the National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) which has already promised to take a firm stand against measures that do not include subsidies to the poor.

The NSCP has proved its influence and capability of mobilising large segments of the society on different occasions, and has launched a national boycott against coffee, when coffee prices were raised last December.

"We are waiting for the cabinet's decision," president of the NSCP, Mohammed Obeidat, said. "But any policy not contemplating subsidies for the poor will not be acceptable."

Jordanian officials to present plans for 28 projects to donors next week

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan
Times

AMMAN - Jordan will present a meeting of donor countries in Paris early next month with detailed plans for the construction of 28 infrastructure projects that the Kingdom hopes to launch before the end of the century, Nabil Ammari, secretary-general at the Ministry of Planning, told the Jordan Times Saturday.

The meeting of the donor countries' consultative group, which will take place on July 8, will bring together institutions and international

organisations from 40 countries in addition to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Jordanian delegation to the July 8-9 meeting will be headed by Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and will include Finance Minister Marwan Awad and Central Bank Governor Ziyad Fariz.

Dr. Ammari said that some of the 28 public sector projects whose economic feasibility is established could be financed by the private sector.

"This Paris meeting will discuss the role of the private sector as well as means

of supporting the Kingdom's balance of payment and enhancing the foreign currency reserves," Dr. Ammari said.

The projects, proposed under the Kingdom's investment plan, involve water, mining, telecommunications, transportation and energy schemes at the estimated cost of \$2.6 billion, he said.

Some of the projects, Dr. Ammari added, were presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, and some will be presented at the Cairo economic summit to be held later this year.

The Kingdom is expected to get support for its invest-

ment bids due to the clean bill of health it has been receiving for its economic reform programme from the IMF.

An IMF official has recently said that the Kingdom was meeting the target of the IMF-agreed reforms and was heading towards attaining the 6.5 per cent economic growth forecast for 1996.

Jordan this year started a new three-year economic reform programme that will allow it to receive \$295 million extended fund facilities in return for steps to further liberalise the economy.

The IMF official said that

Jordan was also on track towards meeting its target of bringing its foreign reserves to \$600 million, which can cover the import bill for three months.

The structural reform programme follows successful efforts for monetary stabilisation that were agreed with the IMF.

Dr. Ammari said that officials from the IMF will present the Paris meeting with documents about the success of the reform programme in the Kingdom and the distance it has covered towards meeting the targets of the programme.

Japan foreign reserves reach \$208.38b

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's foreign reserves, presumed to be the biggest held by a single country, rose \$2.65 billion in May to a new record high of \$208.38 billion, the finance ministry has said.

The total of convertible foreign currencies, gold and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Drawing Rights increased for the 31st straight month, the ministry said.

The margin of increase in May was relatively small as the Bank of Japan refrained from active intervention to prop up the dollar against the yen.

Israel's finance minister vows spending cuts, not tax hikes

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel's new finance minister Friday said the government would quickly cut its budget deficit by reducing spending and not by raising taxes.

"There is no intention to raise taxes. There is an intention to reduce expenditures," Dan Meridor, of the hardline Likud Party, said at his first news conference since taking office last week. "We think the government should be much less involved in the economy," he added.

Mr. Meridor said he could not say yet by how much, or where, the government would reduce public consumption.

"We will not hurt infrastructure. We will not hurt investment. We will not harm the poor or the weak," he said.

Mr. Meridor said that early estimates indicate the budget deficit for the first six months could top five billion shekels (\$1.56 billion) and that if the government does not take measures, the full-year deficit will surpass the target of 7.6 billion (\$2.37 billion) shekels by about three billion shekels.

The deviation from the budget deficit target is a result of miscalculations from last year's budget rather than overspending this year. Lower-than-expected revenue in 1995

led the government to put off some expenditures until early 1996.

Fiscal tightening is seen as a necessary step to help rein in inflation, now running at an annual rate of 15 per cent.

This week the central bank responded to rising inflation by hiking its key lending rate 1.5 percentage points to an annual 17 per cent.

Mr. Meridor said the central bank's move did not increase pressure on the government to tighten fiscal policy because the govern-

ment was well aware of the need for spending cuts.

One result from a larger-than-expected deficit in the budget would be a widening of the current account deficit in Israel's balance of payments, the minister said.

"The current account deficit will be larger than last year's (\$4.1 billion) if we don't do anything," Mr. Meridor said.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get rid of that temptation to get embroiled with one whose ideas are very different from your own and make the decisions which are beneficial.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Take care not to downgrade your reputation in any manner today, but step out in public and show your fine abilities to everyone.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan your day early and get into new kinds of activities, and avoid doing dull chores of a routine nature which are not beneficial.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your intuition is not working well in the morning today, but later tonight you get the right hunches and can advance your interests.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid that individual who likes to disagree in the morning today, but later this evening others can make the rest of the day very pleasant for you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) In the morning today, the tasks you are handling may seem boring to you, but if you plan them well, they become fun and profitable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may feel depressed in the morning today, but later everything lights out for you and you can have a very pleasant time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do something to relieve tensions at home and then there can be real harmony there. Avoid anyone who could be a trouble maker.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make plans early about what to do today, and then contact those who have the data which you need to complete an important task.

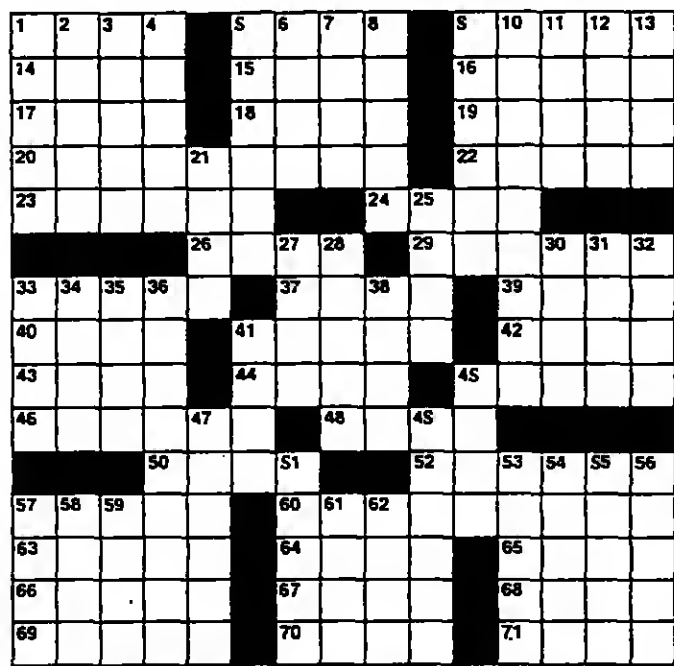
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) You may feel lacking in the morning today, but rely on your natural resourcefulness and you soon know how to make money.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have many good close friends so contact them today and be happy in their company. Set up appointments for amusements you all enjoy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may feel that you have to many difficulties today, but clear thinking will see you solving them quickly and in a satisfactory manner.

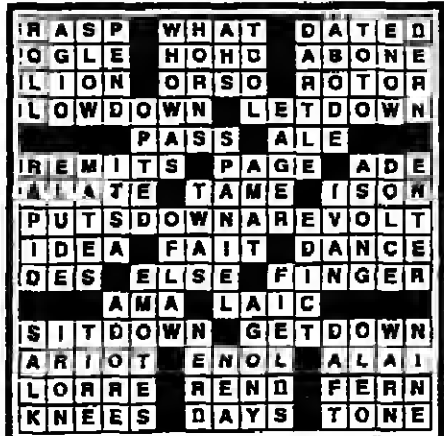
THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

- ACROSS
1 Embark
5 CA law enforcers: abbr.
9 Use a rick
14 Goddess of youth
15 Nasase of tennis
16 Forty— (Gold Rush man)
17 Actor Richard
18 To — (exactly)
19 Playful manne camivore
20 Cager Larry's parrot?
22 Cleans a pipe
23 Fall upon
24 Defeats in bridge
26 Unheeding
29 Inuit
33 Sims
37 Spin a floating log
39 Roman road
40 Composer Edouard
41 Assuage
42 Mountain lake
43 Sweet sandwich
44 Lager or pilsener
45 Free-for-all
46 Lineman
48 Bandage
50 Poses
52 Appraise
57 Respond to stimuli
60 Columnist George's testament?
63 Lingo
64 Organic compound
65 Adams or McClurg
66 Oral statement
67 A Guthrie
68 Greek community
69 Horse race
70 Bring up
71 Formerly, once



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Monday's Puzzle solved:

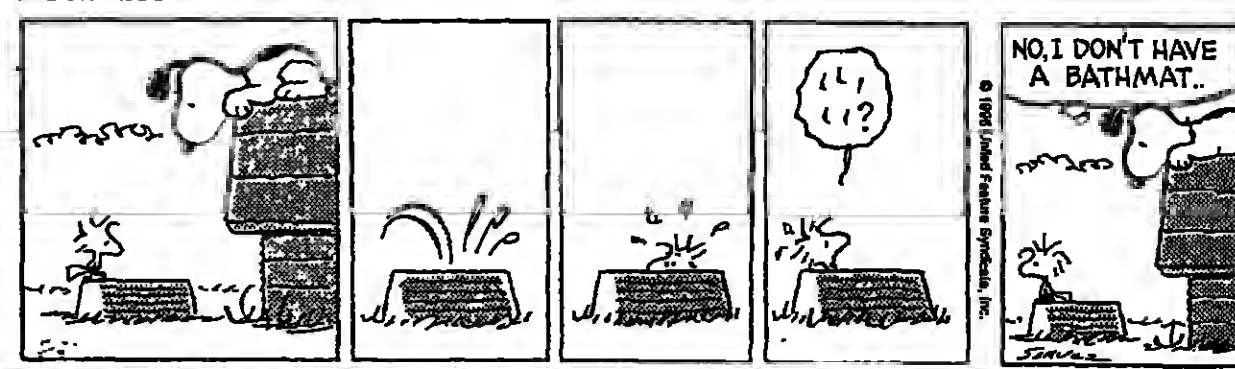


- DOWN
1 Ancient Arabian kingdom
2 Sponsorship
3 Falls
4 — hand (assist)
5 Legally bound
6 High: prel.
7 Jetty
8 Ownership documents
9 Stable sounds
10 Goller Tom's toy?
11 Square column
12 Abound
13 Miscalculates
21 Faction
25 Wriggling
27 Proficient
28 — mignon
30 Print type: abbr.
31 Only
32 Caen's river
33 Conspire
34 Zhivago's love
35 Guinness
36 Explorer James' chef?
38 — avis
41 Assist
45 Military meal
47 Not much
49 Lack of color
51 Curse
53 Carian
54 Bedding down
55 Slenderizes
56 Frozen rain
57 Emulates Hammer
58 Part of QED
59 City on the Juma
61 Concerning
62 "Damn Yankees" name

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



Peanuts



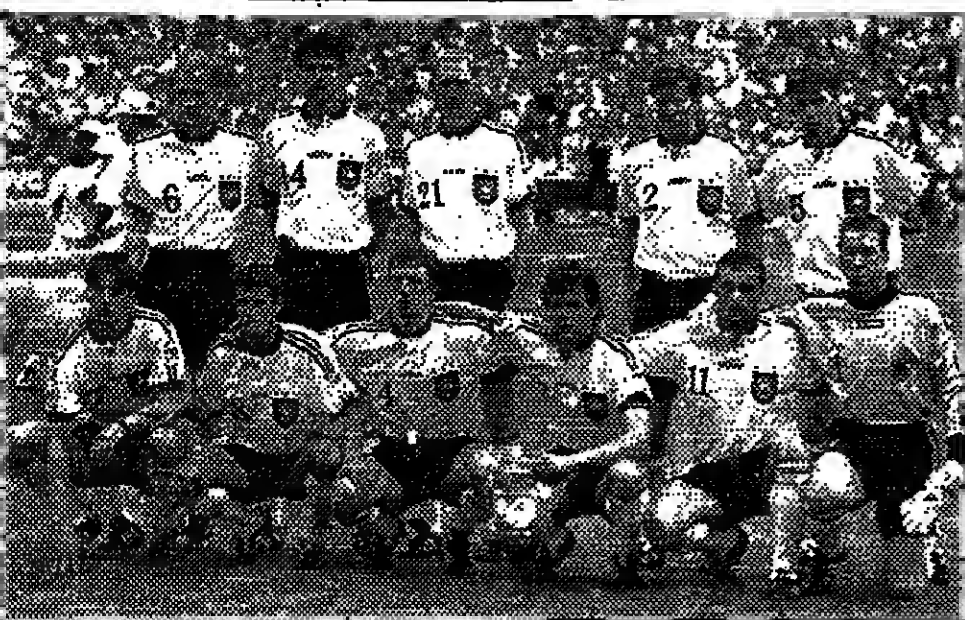
Andy Capp



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The German national soccer team poses for photographers prior to their match against England at their 1996 European Soccer semifinal match at Wembley Stadium. Top row from left to right: Matthias Sammer, Markus Babel, Dieter Ehlis, Stefan Reuter and Thomas Helmer. Bottom row: Christian Ziege, Mehmet Scholl, Steffen Freund, Andreas Moller, Stefan Kunz and Andreas Kopke. Germany will face the Czech Republic in the final Sunday June 30 (Reuters photo)



The Czech Republic national soccer team poses for photographers prior to their match against Germany at their 1996 European Soccer semifinal match at Wembley Stadium. Top row from left to right: Radek Latal (2), Vladimir Smicer (17), Karel Poborski (8), Vaclav Nemecek (6) and Pavel Kuka (9); back row, Jiri Nemec (7), Jan Suchoparek (3), Miroslav Kadlec (5), Radek Bejhl (13), Michal Horak (15) and goalkeeper Petr Kouba. before their quarterfinal match in Euro 96 at Birmingham's Villa Park (Reuters photo)

Germany meet Czech Republic in Euro 96 final tonight

Czech goalkeeper doubtful with thigh injury; UEFA to allow replacement players

ST. ALBANS, England (R) — The Czech Republic will await a medical bulletin on goalkeeper Petr Kouba before finalising their team to meet Germany in the final of Euro 96 at Wembley Stadium.

Kouba, who is keen to leave Sparta Prague to play in England next season, missed training on Friday with a thigh injury. Newcastle's Pavel Srnec is standing by to replace him.

"It looks very serious but the doctors will do their best," said coach Dusan Uhrin. "It depends on whether he's able to train tomorrow."

However, team sources said he was likely to be fit. Uhrin indicated striker Vladimir Smicer would play, despite allowing the 21-year-old from Slavia Prague to return home between the semifinal and final to get married.

"Smicer will be in the starting line-up," said Uhrin. "I promised I would let him go before the tournament. I don't think the journey will affect his performance."

Win or lose, the Czechs are planning to take an open-top bus ride through

Injury-hit Germans to call up replacements

LONDON (R) — Injury-hit Germany have been given the go-ahead to call up two more players into their squad for Sunday's Euro 96 final against the Czech Republic.

German team sources said that UEFA had backed their request for the extra players at a meeting Friday. The Czechs will also be given the chance to expand their squad.

UEFA were unable to confirm the decision immediately.

Under Euro 96 rules no extra players can be called into the 22-player squads after the start of

the championship.

The Germans, who have two players suspended for the final in addition to a large number of injuries, have had special shirts made for their reserve goalkeepers in case they are needed to sit on the bench as out-field players at Wembley.

Coach Berti Vogts said he had not decided yet who he would call up if the Germans decided to take up the option.

"It is a theoretical possibility for us and it will boost our plans," he said. "We will make our decision calmly."

the streets of Prague Monday, with 50,000 people expected to greet them in Wenceslas Square.

The Czech Football Association are also scrambling around for extra Wembley tickets. They have 4,000 but will be seeking an extra 2,000 to satisfy a predictable

increase in demand.

The other matter to be resolved is what shirts the team will wear. The Czechs are keen to play in white rather than the red they wore in the semifinal, and have asked tournament organisers to organise a toss of a coin with their opponents.

Euro Championship facts and figures

Facts and figures about Sunday's Euro 96 final between Germany and the Czech Republic.

* The final will be the first final international to be played at Wembley Stadium not involving England since July 28, 1966 when Portugal beat the Soviet Union 2-1 in the first place playoff of that year's World Cup.

* Sunday's match will be the 18th meeting between the two countries in their various guises. Either Germany or West Germany or Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic since they first clashed in 1934. Of the encounters to date, the Germans have won 11, the Czechs four and three games have been drawn.

* The most famous match played between them was the European Championship final in Belgium on June 30, 1976 which ended 2-2 after extra time. The outcome was decided on penalties 5-3 in Czechoslovakia's favour.

* Since winning the 1976 championship the Czechs have not beaten the Germans in any of their 10 meetings.

* The Czechs' record was against the Germans was in their first encounter, the 1934 World Cup semifinal in Rome, when

they won 3-1. The Germans record win came in April 1985 when they won a World Cup qualifier 5-1 in Prague.

* Germany, already the only nation to win the European Championship twice, will be looking for their third victory in their final match on Sunday. Including World Cups, it will be Germany's 11th major final. The Czechs will be appearing in their fourth major final following three appearances in the 1934 and 1962 World Cup finals and their victory in the 1976 European Championship.

* The 1976 European Championship was the first big international competition to be decided on penalties.

* Five of the Czech squad play with German clubs — midfielders Radek Latal and Jiri Nemec (both Schalke 04), defender Miroslav Kadlec and forward Pavel Kuka (both Kaiserslautern) and Patrik Berger (Borussia Dortmund).

* While Germany's last visit to Wembley was for Wednesday's semifinal against England, the Czechs have not played there since April 25, 1990 when they lost 4-2 to England. Miroslav Kadlec and Pavel Kuka, who scored one of the goals, are the only current squad members who played in that game.

British punters back Czechs for final.

Thousands of British gamblers have backed the Czech Republic at odds of 11-5 to beat Germany in

Sunday's Euro 96 final.

"The public seem to be behind the Czechs, placing bets in their thousands," said bookmakers Ladbrokes. "People seem to want them to prevent the Germans from lifting the

cup."

Germany are 1-3 favourites.

Euro 96 has been Britain's biggest sports event ever in betting terms, with 80 million pounds (\$123 million) staked.

Quiet Olano might be the new Indurain

DEN BOSCH, Netherlands (R) — Name a quiet Spanish rider of Basque origin taking part in this year's Tour de France who has a heavy frame, dark hair, superior mental strength and incredible power in time-trials.

Miguel Indurain? No, Abraham Olano.

The man who handed Spain their first World Championship title last year in Colombia is every bit like Indurain. And to many he could be the successor of the five-times tour winner.

"I'm here to learn," Olano, a teammate of Switzerland's Tony Rominger in the formidable Mapei stable, said Friday the day before the start of the Tour.

"Of course I'd love to win but I'm here to help Tony." But if Rominger, 35, suffered in high climbs and lost time, 26-year-old Olano would be ready.

"The circumstances of the race will dictate what happens," Rominger said. "Abraham certainly has the ability to be a Tour leader."

It has not all been easy for Olano, who has often been injured and struggled to win a place in a professional team.

In 1991, he signed his first contract with a brand new Spanish team, Caja Hipotecaria, which collapsed a few months later. He had to return to the amateur ranks before finding another team, Lotus, and then joining Clas, now called Mapei.

Olano made his Tour debut in 1993 but fell heavily in the second stage and had to retire with a broken hand. His season was over.

Like Indurain, the soft-spoken Olano never complains.

He just kept working hard and in 1995 made his big breakthrough with second place in the Tour of Spain.

Then came the World Championships, which he started with a silver medal behind Indurain in the time-trial event. He went on to win the road race title, bearing Indurain into second place despite riding the last kilometre with a punctured back tyre.

Olano, who had never won a major title before, showed he was a true champion in that race, opening up a 35-second gap in the descent of the penultimate lap and holding it up the punishing final climb.

When he returned home he was met with whistles and boos from some

Spanish fans who could not accept that somebody had beaten the great Indurain.

But his victory could well have provided a symbol and a sign of things to come as Olano has all the qualities required to become the new Indurain.

For as long as he can remember, Olano, who was born in Anoeta where the Clasica San Sebastian race passes every year, has always been on a bike.

"My father was a rider," he said. "He never won a race but he loves cycling very much."

Life was tough sometimes as his father Guillermo, a scrap metal dealer, found it hard to feed Abraham and his five brothers and sisters.

But they all had a hike and Abraham jumped on his every day, pedalling as hard as he could to follow the bus taking the children to school, four kilometres from his home.

Now number eight in the world rankings, Olano, who came third in this year's Giro, has a bright future.

"We don't know where his limits are," Mapei's deputy team director Jesus Suarez said. "We haven't found out yet. I don't know if he's the new Indurain but there's certainly plenty to come for him."

Five-times Tour winner Bernard Hinault, now working with the Tour organisers, said he believed Olano could succeed Indurain.

"He's still young and there are signs that prove he's on the way up," the Frenchman said. "He's good in time-trials, good in the mountains and he's still improving. I think he can make it on the Tour, perhaps not this year but he's got time."

In this year's Tour, Olano, probably aware that Indurain finished 10th in the Tour in 1990 when he was the age Olano is now, will go for a good overall placing.

"I feel good and being in the world's strongest team gives me a lot of confidence," he said. "I know there will never be a single problem with Tony. He's my friend and I'm here to support him."

Olano is much too polite to say so but he knows that Rominger will not go on for ever. Soon the Spaniard will be his team's leader.

Next year he will be 27, the age Indurain was when he won his first Tour in 1991.

No surprises in U.S. gymnastics trials

BOSTON (R) — The women's compulsory at the U.S. Olympic gymnastics trials brought no big surprises Friday as veterans Jaycie Phelps, Dominique Dawes and Kerri Strug held the top three spots with Amanda Borden out far behind in fifth.

The one minor surprise was Amy Chow, who hit four solid routines for a 46.377 score and fourth place. Phelps had 46.887, Dawes 46.768, Strug 46.588 and Borden 45.913. Dawes and Strug are both trying for their second Olympic team.

Chow had not competed since April due to a back injury, and received entry into the trials by petition after missing the national championships three weeks ago.

"I don't think it bothered my performance," Chow said of her back. "The only time I noticed it at all was during warmups."

The trials are taking place without two-time world champion Shannoo Miller or world silver medalist Dominique Moceanu, who petitioned USA gymnastics to have their scores from the nationals count as their scores for the trials.

Both athletes are injured. Miller with an inflamed tendon in her left wrist and Moceanu with a stress fracture in the tibia of her right leg.

For those two to fail to make the seven-member Olympic team, seven women would have to beat their scores of 78.380 and 78.220, respectively.

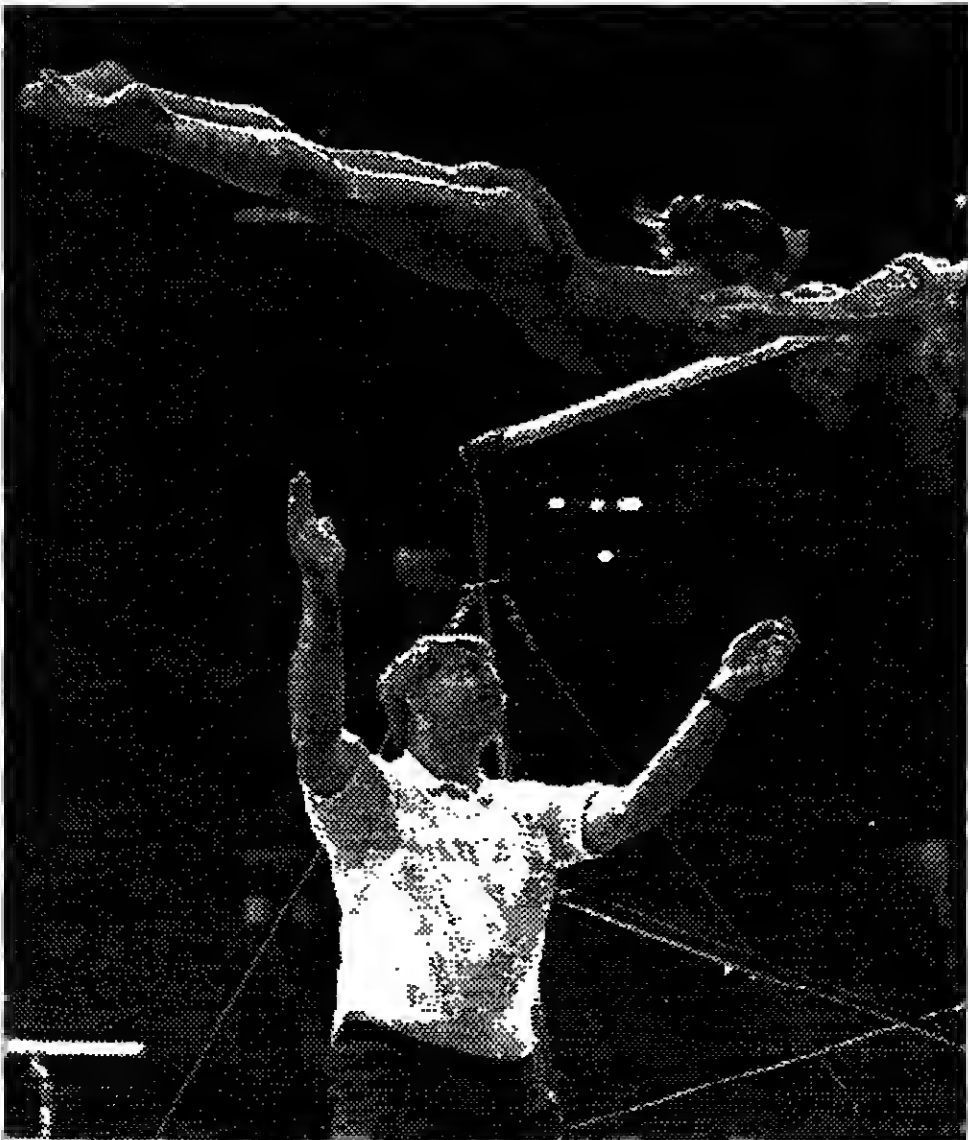
Compulsories count 60 per cent towards the final trials score, with optionals counting 40 per cent. No performer Friday night beat the compulsory scores Miller and Moceanu posted at the National Championships.

Following Borden were Mary Beth Arnold with 45.568, Theresa Kulikowski with 45.433, Jennie Thompson with 45.314, Katie Teft with 45.270 and Kristin Maloney with 45.163.

Borden, who narrowly missed making the 1992 Olympic team, said the talent in the trials field is deep.

"This year we have a lot of variety. We have a lot of older girls and we have several younger girls who are right up there," she said. "I think we have a good chance of medalling in Atlanta."

The women's competition concludes with optionals Sunday.



Legendary gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi spots for his current star, 14-year-old Dominique Moceanu, as she practises at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Gymnastic team trials in Boston. Moceanu has received an injury waiver to bypass the trials and proceed to the Olympics, but is practising alongside her prospective teammates at the trials (Reuters photo)

Brazil drop Romario from Olympic squad

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian World Cup striker Bebeto has been named in the country's squad for next month's Olympic soccer tournament but Romario, his striking partner at the last world cup, was left out.

Bebeto, who this month joined Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo from Spain's Deportivo Coruna, was named as one of Brazil's three over-age players for the tournament in Atlanta which is restricted to players under 23. Rivaldo and Aldair were the other two over-aged players included in the squad.

But Romario, who has said he wants to add an Olympic gold medal to the World Cup winners' medal he won in 1994, was left out despite his excellent form this year for Flamengo.

Romario played in the Brazil team which won a silver medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Brazil have won the World Cup four times but have never managed an Olympic gold.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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BESTING THE BEST

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 6 5

♥ A K 6

♦ A 10 9 7 2

♣ A K

WEST

♠ K 4 3 2

♥ Q 9

♦ Q J 8 6 5

♣ J 7 2

EAST

♠ A Q 8 7

♥ Q J 8 2

♦ Void

♣ 10 9 8 4 3

SOUTH

♠ 10 8

♥ J 10 8 7 4

♦ K 4 3

♣ Q 6 5

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass 2NT Pass

30 Dbl Rdbl Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

"Dear Tannah:

I played in the Macmillan Sunday

Times Tournament in London with

Zia Mahmood. Although we did not

particularly distinguish ourselves, I

think you'll find this hand played

against the eventual winners Jeff

Mockett and Eric Rodwell,

rather amusing.

"I transferred to hearts over Zia's two no trump opening bid and Rodwell doubled. When Zia redoubled to show diamonds, I knew that the suits would not be breaking well so I elected to pass, and three diamonds redoubled became the final contract."

"Had Rodwell led the singleton heart, the defenders would have been able to collect two heart ruffs, two spade tricks and a trump. However, West chose to lead a low club, taken in dummy. A low spade was ducked to West, a spade was returned to East and I ruffed the third spade."

"I could now cross to dummy safely with a heart, unblock the ace of clubs and return to hand with the king of diamonds to discard a heart on the queen of clubs. I now led my last trump and, when West played low, I finessed the ace. As a result, the defenders were held to two trump tricks and two spades, and we scored up a delightful +840 for a huge gain."

"Loved our trip to South Africa."

As ever, Omar

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA John Travolta and Gene Hackman in Get Shorty Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30	PLAZA Eddie Murphyin The Distinguished Gentleman Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD *Abu Al Dahab (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" That Night Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Amman Theatre & Cinema TEL: 6274 61275 Will shortly present Zawal Weld Awad theatre group in a play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat	Nabii D. Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Roman Amphitheatre to host Arab Youth Boxing Championship starting Monday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants from eight Arab countries Monday begin competition in the 3rd Arab Youth Boxing Championship which will be held here July 1-6.

Boxers from Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan will be contesting the five-day event which will be held at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman.

While following up final preparations for the event, Jordan Boxing Federation (JBF) Chairman Mohammad Suleiman said he expected Jordan's boxers "to score positive results and obtain advanced standings in the competition." Suleiman made his statement after attending the team's practice and follow-

ing the end of qualifying matches to decide the final lineup.

Asked about the decision to hold the championship in the Roman Amphitheatre Suleiman explained that it came about for a host of reasons. "Holding the event at the amphitheatre will hopefully prove to be suitable for many reasons. I know it will bring back many memories to fans of the sport as many bouts were held there from 1958-1965."

The JBF chairman said the venue is easily accessible to fans in addition to being a prime archaeological site in the capital.

Jordan's team includes Abdul Hamid Hiyasat, Murad Majed, Nabil Haimour, Humam Hamzeh, Hazem Oqielan, Munib Saqqa, Mohammad Hassan, Yousef Rasmi, Ayoub Hasanat, and Ahmad Houwari.

White Sox beat Indians 4-2 to close AL Central gap

CHICAGO (R) — Rookie James Baldwin held the Indians to two runs in six innings and Bill Simas escaped a bases-loaded, none-out jam as the Chicago White Sox beat Cleveland 4-2 Friday to move within a game of the American League Central leaders.

Baldwin (7-1), who has won four straight games, allowed five hits and five walks, striking out four.

"Tonight was tough for me because it was the first time I faced Cleveland (and Albert Belle)," Baldwin said. "Simas did a tremendous job and so did the defense."

With Chicago up 4-2 in the seventh, Simas left the bases full by striking out Belle and Jim Thome before getting Eddie Murray to bounce out.

"It was tough to hold my composure," Simas said. "After the second out, I really wanted to let it loose, to jump up and down, but I didn't. I wanted to limit myself to one run in that situation with three tough hitters coming up and fortunately, it worked out."

"The game came down to us having the bases loaded and not scoring any runs," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said.

Roberto Hernandez pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save. Indians starter Dennis Martinez left the game in the fourth with a strained flexor muscle in his right arm.

Julian Tavarez (2-5) took the loss in relief.

Eddie Murray hit his 490th career homer for the Indians, who have lost seven of their last eight games and have split four meetings with Chicago.

In New York, Rafael Palmeiro hit a pair of two-run homers and Cal Ripken drove in three runs, including the go-ahead run in the ninth, as the Baltimore Ori-

oles snapped a three-game losing streak with a 7-4 victory over the Yankees.

The Orioles beat the Eastern Division-leading Yankees for the first time in four meetings this season, reducing their deficit to 4 1/2 games. The Yankees lost just their fourth in 12 games.

Reliever Arthur Rhodes (9-0) remained unbeaten with 3 1/3 scoreless innings. Reliever Mariano Rivera (3-1) took the loss.

In Seattle, Jay Buhner sparked a seven-run first inning with a three-run double and Joey Cora had two triples, two singles and three RBI as the Mariners continued their dominance over the Texas Rangers, 19-8.

Brian Hunter, Edgar Martinez and Dan Wilson also homered for Seattle, which has 121 four-baggers. Luis Sojo had a career-high five hits, all singles, to spark a 22-hit attack.

The 19 runs tied the club record and the 22 hits fell one short of the franchise standard. Both were also against Texas.

The Mariners have won 23 of their last 28 games against the Rangers dating back to 1993.

At California, Jason Giambi hit a two-run homer and Ernie Young and Damon Mashore added solo shots to lead the Oakland Athletics past the Angels 6-3.

Six of Giambi's last seven hits have been homers. Mashore's homer was the first of his Major League career as Oakland won for the eighth time in 12 games.

Bobby Chouinard (2-2) won his second consecutive start while Angels starter Chuck Finley (9-6) failed to become the fifth 10-game winner in the American League.

In Kansas City, Kevin Appier pitched a five-hitter

and Keith Lockhart doubled twice and drove in three runs to lead the Royals to a 6-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Appier (7-7) retired the last 15 batters. He walked two and struck out eight.

Lockhart went 3-for-4 with a two-out, two-run double in the third and an RBI double in a four-run sixth.

Minnesota's Marty Cordova had an RBI single in the first to extend his hitting streak to 22 games, tying Baltimore's Roberto Alomar for the longest in the majors this season.

Minnesota's Brad Radke (4-10) lost his fifth straight start and is the third 10-game loser in the American League.

In Boston, Tim Lincecum drove in four runs, including a key two-run single in a four-run fourth, and Lee Tinsley added three RBI as the Red Sox defeated the Detroit Tigers 8-5.

Tim Wakefield (5-8) snapped a personal three-game losing streak. Brian Williams (1-5) took the loss.

In Toronto, Jeff D'Amico threw 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his Major League debut and Greg Vaughn continued his torrid month with a solo homer as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Blue Jays 5-1.

D'Amico, a 20-year-old righty, came up from Double-A El Paso earlier in the day and is the youngest player in the majors. He walked the first two batters he faced, but settled down and gave up only two hits.

Juan Guzman (6-6) took the loss.

Vaughn was 2-for-3, has hit in 14 straight games and has 12 homers and 34 RBI in June. His 12 homers equal the team record for a month, set by Gorman Thomas in August 1979.

Modahl wins first round in court

LONDON (R) — Diane Modahl has fought off a high court attempt by the British Athletic Federation (BAF) to block a massive damages action she has brought after clearing her name of drug-taking allegations.

The judge, Justice Popplewell, on Friday rejected the BAF's argument that her case should be struck out because it showed no reasonable cause of action.

He said it should be argued at a full hearing which is expected to take place towards the end of the year. "I cannot say that this case is doomed to failure," he said.

The ruling means Modahl, who will run in the 800 metres in Atlanta, can go ahead with her claim for compensation for the 480,000 pounds (\$743,500) legal and medical costs incurred in challenging a four-year drug ban imposed after tests carried out in Lisbon in 1994.

Doubts were eventually cast on the accuracy of the tests and the ban was lifted earlier this year.

Modahl, who is seeking a similar figure in punitive damages over the way her case was handled by the BAF, said: "It has been a stressful few days and I am happy now that I can concentrate on athletics again."

Surin beats world class field in Paris

PARIS (R) — Canadian Bruny Surin surprised some of the world's greatest sprinters including world champion Donovan Bailey and Olympic champion Linford Christie with victory in the 100 metres at a Grand Prix meeting here Friday.

With the Atlanta Olympics less than three weeks away, Surin clocked a somewhat disappointing 10.03 seconds in a race in which the top class field had been expected to test the world record of 9.85 seconds of American Leroy Burrell.

Fellow Canadian Bailey was second in 10.04 with Briton Christie third in 10.05.

Sampras, Stich, Novotna safely through; Ferreira, Rosset crash out of Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — Defending champion Pete Sampras took another step towards a fourth consecutive Wimbledon men's singles crown here Saturday when he swept into the last sixteen by chalking up a 6-4, 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3) centre-court victory over 107th-ranked Karol Kucera of Slovakia.

The match lasted 2hrs 26mins the world No. 1 now plays either 16th seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline or 94th-ranked Jan Krosiak of Slovakia for a place in the quarterfinals.

Looking cold and uncomfortable in the distinctly chilly conditions, Sampras found himself trailing 1-4 in the fourth-set and he had to fight hard to force the tie-break with Kucera playing well above himself.

But the Slovak player's revival had come too late and, helped by what luck that was going, Sampras closed out in the second tie-break of the match.

Meanwhile, sixth-seed Jana Novotna survived the first week at Wimbledon when she defeated Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-3, 6-1.

The 1993 finalist, who had her right forearm heavily strapped, started badly, dropping her serve twice to go 1-3 down before getting her act together.

She now plays Cambodian-born Patricia Hy-Boulais of Canada.

Hy-Boulais came through a tough three-set clash against 28-year-old Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

In other third-round matches Swiss teenager Martina Hingis, the 16th seed, beat Linda Wild of the United States 6-3, 2-6, 6-1



Germany's Michael Stich

while Elena Likhovtseva of Russia beat Larisa Neiland of Latvia 6-3, 4-6.

Patrick Rafter of Australia reached the fourth-round of the men's singles when he defeated recent French Open semifinalist Marc Rosset in a five-set thriller on the number-one show court.

The 23-year-old Australian trailed twice in the match but finally surged home 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

The 77th-ranked Rafter now plays either Russian Davis Cup player Alexander Volkov or fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

Alexander Radulescu of Germany also reached the last sixteen when he completed a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4,

look at the way they do the draw," said the tenth-seeded German who won the title here in 1991.

"All the big servers show up in the top-half and all the so-called clay-court servers, except Boris (Becker), show up in the bottom half. They should think about the way they're seeding the players. It's not good for the tournament this year."

"I'm not saying that I or anybody else should be ranked higher."

But they should just try to make sure that the big servers are split up.

"At the moment Krajicek, Rosset, Ivanisevic, Sampras and myself are all close together with Pioline — who was in the quarterfinals last time. And in my opinion it's very sad for the tournament."

Stich made the remarks after scoring a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Stolle on the same court where both Andre Agassi and Michael Chang came to grief earlier in the week.

He now plays either New Zealander Brett Steven or Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

Todd Martin of the United States became the only seeded player left in the bottom-half of the draw when he defeated Renzo Furlan of Italy 7-6 (7/1) 6-4, 6-2.

Eleventh-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, was earlier beaten in a grueling three-hour marathon by Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 1-6, 5-7, 6-1.

The results mean that Gustafsson now plays Britain's number-one Tim Henman while Martin faces Thomas Johansson of Sweden.

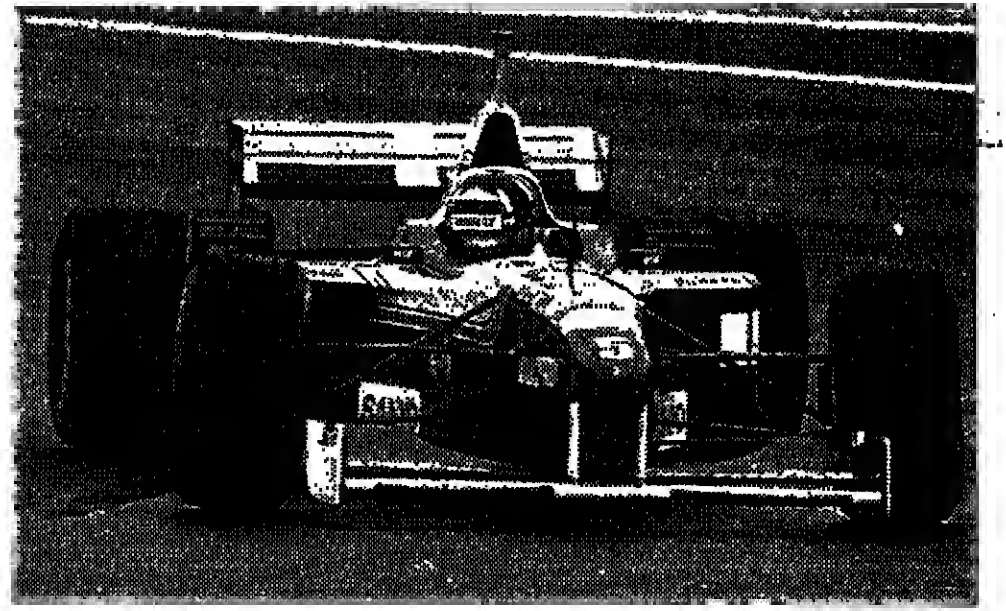
Schumacher takes pole after Villeneuve crashes

MAGNY-COURS, France (R) — Reigning world champion Michael Schumacher claimed pole position on Saturday for Sunday's French Grand Prix after Canadian Jacques Villeneuve crashed heavily midway through the qualifying session.

Villeneuve was unhurt and he was able to rejoin the session, after a delay of half an hour, in the Williams team's spare car.

Schumacher, driving a Ferrari, clocked the fastest time of one minute 15.989 seconds to secure the 13th pole of his career and his third this season since joining the Italian team from Benetton.

The time left the German six-hundredths of a second clear of current championship leader Damon Hill of Britain, who will line up alongside him on the front



Damon Hill of Great Britain in action during the second free practice of French Grand Prix on Magny Cours circuit June 29. The Grand Prix will take place Sunday (Reuters photo)

row of the grid. Frenchman Jean Alesi and his Benetton team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria were third and fourth quickest and will fill the second row.

Villeneuve lost control of his Williams after 28 minutes of the hour-long session as he drove through the high-speed golf curve, one of the fastest parts of the Magny-Cours track.

His car ran wide, went

over the kerb and then refused to be steered back on to the asphalt despite Villeneuve's efforts in the cockpit as it careered across gravel traps and grass at nearly 275 kph.

In the end it flew into a wall of tyres guarding a barrier on the left of the circuit. The impact tore off both left wheels and sent the car into a spin backwards across the circuit where it was narrowly

missed by a passing McLaren driven by Briton David Coulthard.

Villeneuve was unhurt and when the car came to a standstill he was able to climb out and walk away unaided.

He rejoined the session in the team's spare car but was unable to improve on his earlier time and ended sixth-fastest, sharing third row of the grid with fifth-placed Mika Hakkinen.

Rockies bomb Dodgers; Giants lose 8th straight match

DENVER (R) — Andres Galarraga hit his third homer in two games and Dante Bichette and Vinny Castilla added three-run shots as the Colorado Rockies handed the Los Angeles Dodgers and interim manager Bill Russell their fourth straight loss 13-4 Friday.

Galarraga, who homered twice and drove in a team-record eight runs Thursday, hit a two-run shot off starter Ramon Martinez (6-2) in the bottom of the third.

Bichette, who hit his 15th homer in the fourth, leads the National League with 75 RBI. Galarraga is second with 74.

"It's fun to have cat on this team for the past four years," Bichette said. "We've been able to push each other in RBIs every year. Cat says to me, 'how many you got now?' we kind of kid around and I say, 'I've got one up on you.'"

Martinez surrendered eight runs and 11 hits in our innings after giving up 17 runs over 25 innings in his previous four starts.

"This is a difficult place

to pitch, everybody knows that, because if you hit a groundball or anything, if you hit it good, the ball jumps," he said. "There's nothing you can do."

Eric Karros had two RBI on a homer and a single for Los Angeles, 0-4 since Russell, in for the ailing Tommy Landa, was ejected in the eighth for arguing balls and strikes.

Martinez Freeman (6-4) was the beneficiary of the Rockies' second straight offensive explosion.

In San Francisco, Andy Ashby and four relievers threw a six-hitter and Chris Gwynn hit a three-run homer in the first inning as the San Diego Padres handed the Giants their eighth straight loss, 6-1.

Ashby (8-2) won his fifth straight decision on three hits with two walks and four strikeouts over five scoreless innings. He left with stiffness in his right shoulder.

Bryce Florie worked one scoreless inning and Scott Sanders tossed a scoreless seventh before allowing one unearned run in the eighth. Ron Villone pitched to one batter in the eighth

and Trevor Hoffman got the final five outs for his 14th save.

Chris Gwynn started in right field in place of his injured brother Tony, who has a sore right heel.

In Houston, Mark Clark threw six strong innings and Alex Ochoa had three hits and three RBI as the New York Mets won their season-high fourth straight, 7-2 over the Astros.

Clark (8-6) won his fourth straight decision, allowing two runs — one earned — and five hits, walking none and striking out six. Over his last seven starts, the righty has given up just 11 earned runs in 56 1/3 innings (1.76).

Doug drabek (3-6) took the loss as the Astros, who had a modest two-game winning streak snapped, fell into a tie with St. Louis for first place in the NL Central.

In Cincinnati, Reggie Sanders hit a pair of homers and drove in three runs and Hal Morris added a solo shot as the Reds won their sixth straight, 7-4 over the Chicago Cubs.

In Philadelphia, J.R. Phillips hit a pair of solo

homers and Benito Santiago a three-run job as the Phillies snapped a five-game losing streak, 7-3 over the Montreal Expos.

Philadelphia banged out a season-high 16 hits. The Phillies, who have lost 14 straight on the road, won for just the fourth time in 21 games overall.

In St. Louis, Donovan Osborne (7-4) scattered five hits over eight innings and John Mabry and Ron Gant homered as the Cardinals got their sixth straight home win, 6-1 over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

At Florida, Al Leiter outduelled Tom Glavine with seven scoreless innings and Jeff Cozine drove in both runs as the Marlins won their fourth straight, 2-0 over the Atlanta Braves.

Leiter (9-6), in his 100th career start, scattered seven hits with seven strikeouts and three walks. He snapped a two-game losing streak. Leiter moved past Glavine and Neagle as the Southpaw with the most wins in the NL.

Robb Nen closed out the Braves in the ninth for his 16th save.

Kenya's Tanui fends off challenge in 1,500m

KASARANI, Kenya (R) — Olympic 800 metres champion William Tanui fended off a strong challenge from young rivals Friday to qualify for the 1,500 metres final in Kenya's Olympic trials.

Tanui was 0.30 seconds behind little-known Elijah Maru who won their semifinal in three minutes 42.50 seconds. Lucas Morogo was third.

"It was tough but I think I can get the (Olympic) place," Tanui said.

The second semifinal was won by another unknown, soldier Laban Rotich, in a 3:36.70 with Stephen Kip-

korir second and veteran David Kibet third.

Martin Kipruto Keino, son of 1972 Olympic champion Kipchoge Keino, Reuben Chesang, John Kibowen and Benard Langat complete the field for Saturday's final.

"The fellows you call unknowns are really what must be watched at these trials. They are very good," said Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) secretary David Okoye.

Vincent Malakwen booked an 800 metres final berth, winning his semifinal in 1:45.70 ahead of Benson Koeh and Francis Marwa.

David Kiptoo won the second semi in 1:44.40, ahead

of Frederick Onyancha and Robert Kibet.

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مكتبة عبد الرحمن

G7 tells Karadzic to quit or sanctions reimposed

LYON, France (AFP) — Group of Seven leaders and Russia on Saturday warned the Bosnian Serbs that crippling U.N. sanctions would be reimposed unless their leader Radovan Karadzic quits public office within days.

The ultimatum was spelled at the end of a three-day summit dominated by security issues and overshadowed by last week's deadly bomb attack on a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia.

British Prime Minister John Major said Mr. Karadzic had to be removed from the political process if Bosnia was to have any chance of holding free and fair elections.

"Without that removal there is much less chance of satisfactory elections taking place and there is little doubt if it does not happen there will be a swift coming together to reimpose sanctions."

International Bosnia envoy Carl Bildt said Friday sanctions — currently are suspended — would be reimposed if Mr. Karadzic did not quit as "president" of the Bosnian Serbs by Monday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton played down the

deadline, but insisted: "We want Karadzic out of power and out of influence."

Mr. Major said sanctions, if required, should be reimposed first on the Bosnian Serbs and then on the rump Yugoslavia if there was no progress on Karadzic.

G-7 leaders said Mr. Karadzic — an indicted war crimes suspect barred under the Bosnia peace accords from holding public office or standing for election — should "step down immediately and permanently from all public functions and take no part in government decisions."

A senior Serb official Aleksa Buha said Karadzic had Saturday "transferred full powers" to Deputy Vice-President Biljana Plavsic, but it remained unclear if that meant Mr. Karadzic had quit.

On May 18, Mr. Karadzic named Ms. Plavsic to represent him in "contacts with the international community," but she was boycotted by Mr. Bildt.

Serb leaders are due Sunday to name candidates for Bosnia's first post-war general elections due Sept. 14, in which Mr. Karadzic has threatened to stand despite being disbarred.

Meanwhile the G7 called

on donor countries to accelerate aid payments to Bosnia so at least 50 per cent of money pledged is received by year's end, with the full \$1.8 billion pledged for the first year of reconstruction to be ready by June 1997.

The Karadzic ultimatum concluded a summit that started and ended under the cloud of terrorism, after the attack in Saudi Arabia that left 19 U.S. military personnel dead.

The summit agreed that foreign and security ministers would meet next month to step up international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Announcing an in-depth investigation into the lessons of the Dharan bombing, Mr. Clinton said the international fight against terrorism should:

- ensure terrorists have no place to hide, notably by speeding up extradition procedures

- dry up terrorist resources by stamping down on fund-raising

- improve border security

- end the misuse of high-tech tools by terrorism.

Mr. Major, rocked by Friday's bombing of a British army barracks in

Germany, echoed Mr. Clinton's comments: "We want to make life intolerable for the terrorists in every way we can, to ensure they have no hiding place."

While there was unanimity on Bosnia and the Middle East, the summit failed to resolve significant differences over U.S. legislation that seeks to penalise non-American companies for doing business with Cuba.

There was also a row over aid to the Third World. Germany maintaining its opposition to selling International Monetary Fund gold stocks to finance a global fund for poor countries in Africa and Latin America.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke insisted at the end of the summit that the gold would be sold, unless Germany could "come up with something better."

The summit also produced broad agreement on the need to extend debt relief to the world's poorest countries and on the need to strengthen surveillance in the increasingly globalised financial world to prevent shocks such as last year's Mexican crisis spreading chaos across the planet.



HRH Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, governor of the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia (right) greets U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry upon his arrival at Dharan airport Saturday (Reuters photo)

COLUMN

Diana 'to keep royal title' after divorce

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana is to retain the title of Her Royal Highness — which means she will keep her position in the royal hierarchy — after her divorce from Prince Charles is finalised, the Daily Mail reported Saturday. Princess Diana, offered to give up the title as part of a settlement, her mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II, believes that the mother of a future king must have the appropriate status, the paper said, quoting unnamed senior courtiers. Such a move would mean that Princess Diana would not be obliged to curtsy to minor royals, it added. The Times meanwhile reported Saturday that the princess's lawyers have become exasperated over Prince Charles's failure to respond to £30 million (\$45 million) divorce proposals put forward three months ago. It said the delay is becoming a source of irritation to the queen, who is believed to be increasingly anxious that the couple's divorce be wrapped up to limit any further damage to the crown.

U.S. military college to open door to women

CHARLOTTE, NC (R) — The Citadel, one of the nation's oldest military colleges, said Friday it would voluntarily admit women, ending a 154-year-old male-only tradition at the state-funded school. The decision followed a Supreme Court order Wednesday that Virginia Military Institute (VMI), the nation's only other state-funded military college to refuse women, give up its male-only policy or lose its support. The Citadel's announcement came nearly a year after a woman who entered the school under court order quit. Citadel cadets cheered in celebration when Shannon Faulkner, the first female cadet, dropped out after becoming sick on her first day in the ranks. But after the Supreme Court ruling on VMI, The Citadel changed its policy. "No longer will the requirement be that you be male to attend the Citadel's corps of cadets," said spokesman Col. Terry Leddom. Ms. Faulkner had waged a two-year battle to become The Citadel's first female, but could not participate in any cadet activities or don the uniform until 1995. When giving up her hard-won place, the Powdersville, South Carolina, native said the legal battle had left her too emotionally drained to continue. The high court's 7-1 vote rendering VMI's policy unconstitutional carried the same implication for The Citadel, located in Charleston, South Carolina.

China beauty parlours destroy 10,000 faces a year

BEIJING (R) — China's fledgling cosmetic surgeons have brought nightmares to their customers, destroying thousands of faces each year, the Yangcheng Evening Newspaper said Friday. The newspaper said about 200,000 operations in 1995 ended in failure and 10,000 people have had their faces destroyed each year in the last five years. The fledgling but popular beauty service industry has to date attracted five million Chinese people to join the business, it reported. "There are more than 700,000 beauty parlours all over China now, but China has no rules to control them," an official from the China Hairdressing and Beauty-Treatment Association said.

King Hussein will not attend July 4 ceremony to receive Liberty Medal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — His Majesty King Hussein will not be on hand on the Fourth of July to receive the Philadelphia Liberty Medal he will share with former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Accepting the award for the King will be Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to the United States.

Martin Meyerson, chairman of the international selection committee, visited the King in Amman, Jordan, on Monday to discuss the award, according to Mary Gregg, executive

director of the nonprofit organisation We The People 2000, which administers the award.

"He is very enthusiastic about the award and would like to be here, but he is needed in the Middle East at this time," Ms. Gregg said.

King Hussein and Mr. Peres were named co-recipients for playing extraordinary roles over many years in pursuing peace and liberty in the Middle East.

Each recipient of the award will receive a gold medal. The entire

\$100,000 cash prize — available only to recipients who travel to Philadelphia — will go to Mr. Perez.

Last year's medal went to Sadako Ogata, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Previous award winners have included Vaclav Havel, F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, Thurgood Marshall, the French human rights group Doctors Without Borders, Jimmy Carter and Lech Walesa.

Egypt admits 'differences' with U.S. over Middle East peace process

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Saturday there were "points of difference" between Cairo and Washington amid a row between them over the peace process and Scud missiles.

"I wouldn't say there is tension in Egyptian-U.S. relations, but there are some points of difference in the estimation of certain matters in the peace process and elsewhere," Mr. Musa told journalists.

"This is something natural in international relations," he said, adding that "Egypt's angle for examining (events) may not be the same angle the United States examines them from."

The Egyptian government press has launched fierce anti-U.S. criticism last week, accusing the U.S. of "caving in" to Israel's new hardline positions in the peace process.

Official newspapers have also accused Washington of raising the issue of reported

purchases by Egypt of Scud missiles from North Korea to force Cairo to ease pressure on Israel.

"Uncle Sam has brought up the issue of Scud missiles and media war against Egypt to intimidate it and convince it not to embarrass the new Likud government in Israel," an editorial in the weekly Akhbar Al Youm said Saturday.

The Scud issue "is a clear message to Egypt not to go against the new plan of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu," the daily Al Gomhoreya said.

Meanwhile, Syria on rejected Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's accusations that it was bosting terror.

Official radio on Friday said Syria, a base for 10 radical Palestinian groups, always wanted peace and differentiated between terror and national resistance.

"Netanyahu, in a clear attempt to mislead the world opinion and cover his retraction from peace,

rushed to play the old tune, terror..." the political comment said.

"And of course Netanyahu thought that Syria might be his perfect target, because it always refused to consider the national resistance against the occupier as terror."

Israel's Maariv daily quoted right-wing Netanyahu, who won elections in May, as saying Syria was a "terrorist state" because it was sheltering radical Palestinians, opposed to the PLO-Israeli peace deals.

"Netanyahu cannot cover facts neither today nor tomorrow. Because Syria always sought peace and worked sincerely to achieve it," the radio political comment said.

The Likud leader rejected in his policy guidelines a future Palestinian state and opposed withdrawal from Arab lands captured in 1967, including Syria's Golan Heights.

Syria and Israel exchanged terror accusa-

tions after a Damascus-based Palestinian group killed three Israeli soldiers in an ambush in the West Bank on Wednesday.

"Who encourages terrorism, who prepares all conditions to revive violence and struggles in the region and who stahs the peace process in the back..." Syrian radio said.

"Is not occupying others' lands a terror...Israel every day rejects and announces rebellion against international legitimacy resolutions."

"The one who seeks the return of his rights and lands could never be a terrorist," it added.

Syria backs Hizbollah guerrillas fighting to expel Israeli troops from a security zone in South Lebanon and regards Hizbollah activities as national resistance.

Syrian-Israeli peace talks were deadlocked over withdrawal from the Golan, future ties and security arrangements.

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Investigators have found several key clues from the bombing that killed 19 Americans, including the chassis and its serial number from the deadly fuel truck.

Saudi authorities, meanwhile, reportedly have the licence plate number and plan to release composite sketches of two suspects soon, Gulf newspapers reported Saturday.

U.S. Defense Secretary William J. Perry flew in for a brief tour of the bomb site Saturday and revealed that security had been stepped up prior to Tuesday's blast due to suspicions that people were scouting out the complex that houses some 2,000 American servicemen.

Mr. Perry said additional security measures have been taken, including placing perimeter barriers 120 meters from the building, compared to 30 meters previously.

He acknowledged that U.S. officials must assume another attack is possible. "We have to take that vulnerability very seriously," he said. "We are making our security plans as if there were other threats."

At the bomb site, Mr. Perry observed the enormous crater left by the bombing and the extensive damage to the building, where huge chunks of concrete dangled from iron rods and bathtubs lay flipped over inside exposed bathtubs.

"Absolutely devastating," Mr. Perry said. "It's a wonder more people weren't hurt."

FBI agents have gathered hundreds of metal parts from the truck and laid them out on three long plastic sheets in the parking lot to the north of the eight-story building.

Investigators have found the truck chassis, complete with serial number, a blackened crankshaft, and a Mercedes-Benz bumper that they think came from the same vehicle. Air Force spokesman Maj. Jim Stratford said.

Gulf newspapers also quoted Saudi officials as saying that investigators had the licence number of the fuel truck.

Three leading Gulf newspapers said Saturday that witnesses gave Saudi investigators a "good description" of the two men who parked the truck, and the government would release composite sketches shortly.

U.S. officials say two men fled in a white, mid-1980s, Chevrolet Caprice Classic automobile — the single most popular car model in the kingdom.

Mr. Perry revealed that even before the bomb blast, security had been heightened because of evidence that would-be terrorists were scouting out the bombing complex.

He cited "suspicious actions at the Khobar towers which suggested they might have been under surveillance."

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He cited "suspicious actions at the Khobar towers which suggested they might have been under surveillance."

That was one factor that led U.S. Forces to erect new fences, establish a security perimeter around the area, post lookouts on the roofs of buildings and run extra foot patrols in the area, he said.

Since the blast, Americans have been moved from exterior rooms to rooms closer to the centre of the buildings, a move he called

"inconvenient but safer" for the soldiers.

Suspicion is focused on Muslim militants who want to drive the roughly 5,000 U.S. troops out of the kingdom, home to Islam's holiest shrines. American officials doubt several claims of responsibility by previously unknown groups.

Investigators have some evidence linking the attack to a bombing in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, that killed five Americans and two Indians in November. Mr. Perry said Friday.

The Saudis have mobilised thousands of security men across the kingdom in their effort to identify those behind the bombing, which further tarnished the Kingdom's image as an oasis of stability in the often violent Middle East.

Americans in the kingdom have received a number of threats in recent months, including one promising revenge if four men arrested in connection with the first attack were punished. All four were convicted and beheaded on May 31.

Mr. Perry said American investigators have received good cooperation from Saudi authorities since the attack.

The Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, said cooperation between investigators from the two countries has been "exceptional" given the circumstances.

"In any close investigation, there are sometimes stumbles," he said. But, he added, "we welcome the participation of our American friends."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two U.S. airmen drown in Oman flood

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (R) — Two U.S. airmen drowned on Friday during a flash flood at a recreation area in Oman, the U.S. Air Force said on Saturday. Several other people of differing nationalities were also killed in the flood, but the exact number was not known, it said in a statement. The airmen were part of a hiking tour of 20 people, including five U.S. airmen, in an area known as snake canyon. Names of the dead airmen were withheld until next of kin were informed.

'Arafat expected in Damascus soon'

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat is expected in Damascus in July for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, officials said Saturday. Arab League deputy secretary general responsible for Palestinian affairs, Said Kamal, told AFP in Damascus he had discussed an up-coming Arafat visit to Syria

with officials here. Mr. Arafat and Assad met on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Cairo last week, helping to heal a three-year row between the two leaders. "The meeting in Cairo of Mr. Assad and Mr. Arafat cleansed Arab feelings and the next visit (of Arafat) will be aimed at reinforcing Arab relations," Mr. Kamal said. Mr. Assad and Mr. Arafat fell out in September 1993 after the Syrian president accused the Palestinian leader of undermining Arab ranks by signing a separate peace agreement with Israel.

U.S. issues travel warning for Somalia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. State Department warned U.S. citizens Friday against travelling to Somalia, where heavy fighting rocked the capital of Mogadishu earlier this week. Sporadic fighting among local militias continues in parts of the country and foreigners face the threat of kidnapping in all regions, the State Department said. Nearly 60 people died in the latest upsurge of fighting in Somalia that lasted

six days.

Gunmen steal car to try to cross into Eritrea

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Police in eastern Sudan stopped a group of gunmen from escaping across the Eritrean border in a hijacked government vehicle, the government daily Al-Engaz Al-Watani said Saturday. The gunmen stopped an all-terrain vehicle transporting the regional agricultural director near Kassala town, 400 kilometres east of Khartoum, the paper said. They took the car and made out for the Eritrean border. When police pursued them the gunmen abandoned the vehicle and escaped on foot, the paper said, without identifying the nationality of the gunmen. There has been a rash of carjackings of government officials in the region, the press has said, adding that the robbers then head into Eritrea. Eritrea broke off relations with Khartoum in December 1994 and has allowed the Sudanese opposition in exile to work openly in Asmara and hold conferences there.